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Police, residents kill two robbers in Calabar

JANUARY 19, 2015 BY MUDIAGA AFFE 0 COMMENTS

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Two unidentified armed robbers have been killed in separate operations in Calabar, the capital of Cross River State.

While the police was responsible for the death of one of the robbers that broke into a warehouse on Sunday around the Eight Miles area, the other robber was lynched by angry residents of Abua Street in Calabar South.

The residents had chased the 20-man gang of robbers and had caught one of them about 9pm on Friday.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Hogan Bassey, said the police, acting on a distress call at about 2am on Sunday, intercepted the robbers at the warehouse after they had gained entrance into the facility.

Bassey told *PUNCH Metro* that on sighting the police from the anti-crime unit of the Federal Housing Police Station, the robbers ran in different directions and in the process of trying to escape, one of them was gunned down, while the others escaped.

It was learnt that the robbers abandoned a Toyota jeep with registration number Cross River DUK 950 AA at the warehouse, which was later confirmed to have been stolen earlier from its owner.

He said, "When the police got to the scene, we saw that the robbers had already gained access into the warehouse and on sighting the police, the five of them ran in different directions. One of them was killed in the process of trying to escape."

Meanwhile, residents of Abua Street in Calabar on Friday aborted the robbery planned by a 20-man-gang of teenage robbers identified as "skolombos boys."

PUNCH Metro learnt that the robbers were homeless street children that had grown into robbery gangs.

It was gathered that after they had raided several shops and snatched valuables from residents on the Edgerley Road, some youths in the area confronted them.

An eyewitness said, "They were 20 in number. Some of them were armed with locally-made pistols, while others had machetes. However, some youths in the area mobilised and chased them. It was during the process that one of them was caught and burnt to death."

But the state PPRO said it was wrong to lynch the suspect, adding that valuable information would have been given by the robber to track down others.

"We got the information on the lynching. We urge the people of the state not to take the laws into their hands.

"When we take them alive, we get information that will lead to breakthrough in crimes," he said.

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