

Police kill four suspects in gun battle, parade 39

5:20 pm

Chukwudi Akasike, Port Harcourt

OPERATIVES of the Rivers State Police Command have killed three suspected kidnappers and one armed robber during a gun duel in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

The suspects were killed during the raid of criminal hideouts between the months of October and November by policemen attached to the state police command.

The State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Musa Kimo, who disclosed this on Monday in Port Harcourt while parading 39 suspected criminals including a suspected armed robber, who usually hid sophisticated pistols inside loaves of bread to deceive security agents and unsuspecting members of the public.

Kimo disclosed that on November 1, 2015, at about 5.30am, policemen on routine patrol along Ada George road, Port Harcourt, sighted a suspicious black Honda Civic with Registration No. AHD 145 RX.

He pointed out that three occupants (all males) of the vehicle opened fire when policemen on duty approach them, saying, "Three of the suspects were shot dead while one AK 47 rifle, two magazines, 50 rounds of 7.62 live ammunition, a complete set of police uniform and a police bullet-proof vest were recovered from the scene of the incident.

"Again, the command smashed a gang of armed robbers who specialised in trailing unsuspecting bank customers and rob them of their hard earned money soon after withdrawal either through Automated Teller Machine or from the banking hall.

"The duo, Hycinth Apasu and Akelachi Nwobike on November 6, 2015, were arrested at their hideout at Emekuku, Port Harcourt and have confessed to be the gang terrorising

bank customers around Azikiwe and Olu-Obassanjo axis of the Port Harcourt,” he said.

The state police commissioner, who spoke through the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ahmad Mohammad, revealed how female suspects were used to rob unsuspecting passengers in Port Harcourt.

Kimo stated that one Chidinma Onuoha was arrested by the police in connection with her involvement in the crime that has been tagged ‘One Chance’ by Nigerians.

However, Onuoha, who sells okra and pepper, confessed to the crime and pleaded for leniency, saying, “I am here because I have no help. I do this thing because of family problem as I don’t have anybody to help me.

“This is how we operate; when someone enters our car, we tell the victim to close the door very tight, then we will start searching their bags and if there is nothing inside, we will return the bag back to the owner and tell the victim to come down.

“But if there is valuable items or money, we will also collect it and force the victim to drop. We do not operate with guns or any charm.”

Also, one Ability Loveday, who was arrested by the police for allegedly hiding a British pistol in a loaf of bread to perpetrate crime, claimed to be a taxi driver, adding that his passengers abandoned the items in his vehicle and took to their heels on sighting policemen.