Police rescue kidnap victim, kill abductor in Imo

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The Imo State Police Command has rescued a businessman, Mr. Ben Kpaduwa, who was kidnapped in Anara Community, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area of the state.

Briefing journalists, the state Commissioner of Police, Chris Ezike, disclosed that his men rescued Kpaduwa on April 4, after a shoot-out with the kidnappers. He added that one of them, Chinedu Imo of Ndiawa Arondizugo, sustained injuries and later died at a hospital where he was taken to for treatment.

The commissioner added that one Mr. Chika Ihemena was arrested with the victim's Toyota Corolla car.

Ezike promised that the state police command would continue to fight cult members, kidnapping, car snatching, impersonation and other criminal activities in the state.

According to him, the command has proposed an amnesty programme for cultists in the state.

"We are engaging all the stakeholders in the higher institutions. We will offer students who are cult members an opportunity to denounce their membership of various cult groups. After that window, we shall launch an onslaught on all campuses in the state," he said.

Meanwhile, the Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Imo State Command, Mr. Stephen Lar, has dismissed reports in some quarters about his alleged involvement in job racketeering with a three-star officer named, James Ofoegbu.

It was alleged that Ofoegbu, a native of Awka, Anambra State, had used the name of the commandant to defraud his unsuspecting victims.

But Lar stated that he was not in the state as commandant when the alleged incident happened.

He said, "The incident happened in 2011 and I wonder why my name should be mentioned. We investigated and saw that the case had nothing to do with employment. The issue was that a NSCDC official borrowed N200,000 from a traditional ruler for a burial and was not able to pay at the agreed time. But the traditional ruler twisted the story to dent the image of the corps."