

Slain Rivers DPO: Four killed, prime suspect flees



•Rivers State CP, Emeka Nwonyi
Source: File

•Slain Rivers DPO, Angbashim

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State Police Command said its men had killed four suspects linked to the murder of the Ahoada Divisional Police Officer, Superintendent Bako Angbashim.

Also, it said three members of the dare-devil gang were arrested, with a locally made pistol recovered.

The Command, however, stated that the prime suspect, Gift Okpara, who captured and decapitated the police officer fled during a fierce gun battle with operatives in Odumude community, Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The state Commissioner of Police, Emeka Nwonyi, disclosed this at a news briefing at the Command Headquarters in Port Harcourt on Tuesday.

Nwonyi expressed annoyance that despite Angbashim's murder, the miscreants were still ready to inflict more pain on the command, saying they opened fire immediately they cited operatives, who responded with superior firepower, leading to the death of four of them.

He, however, stated that despite the grief as a result of Angbashim's gruesome murder, the operation would be sustained until the gang leader and other fleeing gang members were arrested and made to face the law.

He stated, "On 10th of September, 2023 at about 10:30hrs, actionable intelligence revealed that a gang of notorious Iceland cultists, armed robbery

suspects and kidnappers led by one Gift David Okpara, who led his notorious gang to brutally murder SP Bako Angbashim, the DPO of Ahoada on 8th September, 2023 were in their hideout in Odumude forest in Ahoada West LGA.

"Following the information, a combined team of Command Tactical Operatives and Area Command Ahoada stormed the forest in an effort to arrest the notorious hoodlums and possibly recover the corpse of the late officer.

"The hoodlums were battle-ready to inflict more injuries and casualties on police, immediately engaging the police in a fierce gun battle, during which four of the notorious hoodlums who are yet-to-be identified sustained fatal gun injuries while others escaped into the forest.

"The suspects were arrested and a locally made pistol was recovered from them. Meanwhile, the four notorious criminals who sustained injuries were rushed to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital for medical attention but were confirmed dead by the doctor on duty. Operation is still ongoing, to be sustained to arrest the notorious gang leader and others."

In a separate development, Nwonyi paraded seven policemen who were arrested for allegedly assaulting a blogger and extorting the sum of N50m from him, saying the command under his watch would not tolerate unprofessional or unruly behaviour from any operative.