

Delta police engage kidnappers in gun duel, kill four

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Benue CP, Wale Abbass

By Dele Ogunyemi

The Delta State Police Command says it has killed four suspected kidnappers who ambushed police operatives in a bid to rescue some arrested suspects.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edafe, disclosed this in a statement on Thursday in Asaba.

Edafe noted that the suspects had been on the wanted list of the command for over two years.

He said, “The Command has been on the trail of one “momotimi”, the leader of a dreaded kidnapping syndicate responsible for the bank robbery operation at a microfinance bank in the Udu Local Government Area in 2021.

“On September 23, 2023, while acting on credible intelligence, the Commissioner of Police, CP Wale Abass, detailed the Divisional Police Officer of Ekpan Division to follow up on the intel.

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“Consequently, the DPO, CSP Aliyu Shaba, led a team of policemen in a sting operation to the hideout of Momotimi and his gang members in Rivers State.

“The policemen in a combined effort with operatives of the Rivers State Police Command’s Rapid Response Team arrested the said David Momotimi, 32, alongside three gang members.”

The police added that on Wednesday, the suspect led operatives to their hideout in Warri, but on their way, the operatives were ambushed by hoodlums suspected to be members of the gang in a bid to rescue the arrested suspects.

“In the ensuing gun duel, the operatives successfully repelled the attackers, and two police officers sustained gunshot injuries, however, the four suspects in a bid to escape, ran into the crossfire and sustained serious gunshot injuries.

“They were taken to the General Hospital in Kwale where they were confirmed dead by the doctor on duty,” the PPRO added.