

CRIMEWATCH

Harvest of suspects as police battle criminals in Rivers

FROM: TONY JOHN, PORT HARCOURT

Rivers State Police Command has arrested 15 armed robbery suspects and shot five others during an encounter with the police, between August and September 2014.

Also, the command a robbery operation was and arrested 26 suspected cultists arrested during another operation. Ten suspected kidnappers were equally nabbed, even as one person was killed and 20 kidnap victims rescued by the Police in another encounter.

The new Commissioner Of Police in the state, Mr. Dan Bature, at a press briefing at Command Headquarters, Port Harcourt announced that, within the period under review, no fewer than 20 vehicles were recovered from criminals in the state. He added that 15 firearms, 10 bullet proof vests and 242 rounds of ammunition were recovered from the hoodlums.

He said: "You will recall that in my remarks at the valedictory press briefing by my predecessor, I made it clear that I will work assiduously until the state is rid of all sorts of crimes and policing of the Command is taken to a higher level. I want to assure you that the Command has the capacity to grapple with the tasks and challenges of



• Suspects and the arms recovered

policing the state."

According to him, on September 14, 2014, at about 1.35 pm, based on intelligence report, policemen carried out a successful operation along Ada George Road by NTA Road, where three armed men were accosted.

"There was a fierce gun duel between the Police and the robbers and three of the robbers were killed. Recovered from the them

were, a Honda Civic Saloon car, two AK 47 rifles, two magazines and 79 live ammunition.

"Also, on September 10, at about 9.am, a high profile suspected cultist was arrested by the Police in Abua with one AK 47 rifle and four rounds of live ammunition.

"On September 8, the C4i operatives, following a tip off, arrested two men Ishaku Kanu and Sampson Luka. The duo along

with three others at large, allegedly, robbed Nobsams Nigeria Limited at gun point of 120 bags of Xhantan gum and 25 kg drilling fluids chemical valued at N3.4 million.

"Also in Police net is one Ikenna Obiozo, who received the stolen property and a Toyota Hiace bus; we have the items in police custody.

"I have already given marching orders to the officers and men of the Command to smoke out criminals from their hideouts and bring them to face the full wrath of the law. I shall be firm, determined and resolute until my mission of securing the state is achieved.

Meanwhile, one of the suspects paraded by the CP, Ishaku, a security man attached to Nobsams denied being part of the operation. He said that because he traveled outside the state, the period when the goods were stolen, and when he returned, he was arrested for the stolen chemicals.

"I travelled on September 5. I came back on September 10. I am a security man in the company. We are three security men in the company. So, as I traveled they said criminals came in the night. They now said I may be responsible for the robbery. So, my boss (Oga) said if it is like that, let the police arrest me. I will tell you the truth, I am not a thief. When the Police brought me before the suspects, the criminal and the receiver of the goods told the Police that they don't know me."

Bature who reiterated his resolve to consolidate on the security foundation laid by his predecessor, Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin, to nib crime in the bud. Said that his primary responsibility in the state was to protect life and property, as well as to provide a secured environment to enable Rivers people go about their lawful activities.

He declared that there would be no hiding place for kidnappers, armed robbers and cultists, as his men would smoke them out.