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Ondo police read riot act to car snatchers

From **BAMIGBOLA GBOLAGUNTE, Akure**

IT is certainly not the best of time for armed robbers in Ondo State, especially those who specialize in snatching of cars as the state Police Command have stepped up their game.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mike Ogbodu while parading some suspected car snatchers at the Police headquarters, Alagbaka, Akure said his men are prepared to fight the menace of car snatching in the state and make the state peaceful.

The Police have to this end equipped its officers with sophisticated weapons to fight criminal acts in all the 18 Local Government Areas with a view to ensuring that residents sleep with their two eyes closed.

He said new techniques of snatching cars by armed robbers have been discovered by the Police, just as he submitted that the

state will be a difficult place for robbers to operate.

This is even as the command have arrested two suspected car snatchers. The Police commissioner gave the names of the two suspected car snatchers as Muhammad Bello and Akinde Ayo, adding that their accomplices and other members of their gang will also be trailed and arrested by the Police.

He said Ayo and Olayemi were among the car snatching syndicate who had been stealing different vehicles in Akure and its environs for the past few months.

Bello, according to the commissioner, was allegedly arrested during a robbery operation along the Benin-Ore-Ijebu Ode expressway. Two of his 10-man gang were killed while other members ran away.

Some of the items recovered from the suspects include eight cars, two locally-

made rifles, cartridges, cutlass among other dangerous weapons.

Olayemi confessed to the crime, saying he had stolen no fewer than 11 cars since he joined the gang last year.

He explained that the stolen cars are sold as cheap as between N80,000 and N140,000, adding that after the car had been stolen, they would change its number plate, and some parts of the vehicle before it would be finally sold.

"We sell any jeep that we steal at N140,000, while we sell small cars whether new or old at N80,000. When we steal the car, we will remove its number and put another one there. We will also change some parts of the vehicle so that the owner would not identify it when he sees it," he confessed.

He said other members of his gang fled the town when they learnt he had been arrested.



• Ogbodu

THINGS FALL APART