

# 3 suspected robbers killed in Delta gun duel

From **Paul Osuyi,**  
Asaba

**THREE** suspected members of an armed robbery gang have met their Waterloo during a fierce exchange of gunfire with security operatives in Delta State.

The deceased suspects and one other, now at large, were operating in Eku town, Ethiope East Local Government.

But acting on information, a combined team of police and vigilante stormed the area where the gang engaged the team in a gun duel.

In the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the hoodlums succumbed to the security team; three of the armed robbers sustained serious.

Confirming the incident on Saturday in Asaba, acting Public Relations Officer of the command, DSP Bright Edafe said the suspects were rushed to the hospital where they later gave up the ghost while receiving treatment.

Edafe said one cut-to-size single barrel gun, five live cartridges, 11 android phones and one laptop were recovered. He said three victims of the robbery had already come forward to identify the recovered phones and laptop as theirs, adding that manhunt for the

fleeing member of the gang had be intensified.

According to him, four suspected cultists and hard drugs dealers were nabbed in Asaba by officials of Operation Delta Hawk, a security outfit of the state government.

He said they were arrested during a raid on notorious black spots behind the General Hospital, GRA, Asaba.

"The suspects are Idris

Mohammed (31), Suleman Isa (22), Saidu Isah (20) and Habibu Kebbi (22).

"Exhibits recovered from them include 25 wraps of dried leaves suspected to be Indian hemp, 11 sachets of SK, 11 rolls bond, 57 capsules of tramadol, 62 tablets of swinol and 28 wraps of substance suspected to be cocaine. Investigation is ongoing."

## Suspected ritualist beheads 3, chops off 5 persons' hands in Imo

From **George Onyejiuwa,** Owerri

Palpable fear and anxiety have gripped the residents of Ahaba Orodo community of Mbaitoli council of Imo State, as a man suspected to be a ritualists has allegedly beheaded three persons and disappeared with their heads.

The yet-to-be identified assailant, who it was learnt, wields a machete had attacked the people on Wednesday which was Nkwo Orodo, and in the process chopped off the hands of about persons while trying to defend themselves.

It was learnt that the youths of the community gave him a hot chase but he ran into the evil forest and since not been

seen.

It was also gathered that he was suspected to have been responsible for the beheading of three other persons.

According to a community source who wished to remain anonymous, "the incident happened on Nkwo Orodo market day four days ago (Wednesday); the man suddenly attacked people who were selling their wares in the market and in the process five persons had their hands nearly severed as they were trying to protect themselves from his attack. But when the youths started chasing he ran into the evil forest and disappeared. As I speak, we are still looking for him after that ugly incident."