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Kidnapping: Police rescue victim, kill 3 suspects

From Our reporter

Friday, July 09, 2010

Akwa Ibom Police Command has rescued the elder brother of the Chairman, Senate Services Committee, Senator Effiong Bob from suspected kidnappers. The victim, Akpan Timothy Akpan, who is a businessman, was reportedly kidnapped at his village, Ikot Ekwere in Nsit Ubium Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom at 3.30 p.m.

According to reports, he was bundled into a black Mercedes Benz 190 with registration number AG 649 KET and taken to Mminya Ntak village in Mkpat Enin Local Government Area, where the police, following a tip-off, got him rescued and three suspected kidnappers killed in exchange of fire.

Presenting the victim, the State Police Commissioner, Mr Walter Rugbere, said: "We have diminished the arsenal of the devils, no policeman was killed this time around, the war is on, we are winning the battle. "The police are working, the police are trying, three of the suspects met their waterloo during the gun battle with our operatives.

"We have recovered 145 rounds of live ammunition, four AK 47 rifles, a Mercedes 190, one Q-link motorcycle, some charms and two masks. "This gang is believed to be the brain behind series of kidnappings in the state," Rugbere said.

Speaking briefly with newsmen, the victim said the kidnappers had demanded N200 million from him.

He said he was grateful to God and men of the state police command for helping him to regain his freedom.

The police boss also confirmed the death of one Tony Akpanobong, a brother to the Secretary General of Ibibio Elders Forum, Dr Emmanuel Akpanobong.

The late Akpanobong was said to have been shot dead by yet-to-be identified gunmen on Tuesday afternoon in Uyo while on his way to pick his brother's children from school. The deceased had been kidnapped in April this year and was released after some ransom was paid. Rugbere, who also paraded five armed robbery suspects including a middle aged woman, said: "I have no tolerance for kidnappers. (NAN)



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