

Police kill four, arrest 26 robbery suspects

UMUAHIA—THE Abia State police command has killed four robbery suspects and arrested 26 others, including a pastor.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Samson Wudah, told newsmen in Umuahia on Tuesday that the operation was carried out on Sept. 30, as part of efforts to rid the state of violent crimes.

He noted that there had been an upsurge in crimes in the state when he assumed office on Aug. 4, but that the situation had improved considerably.

Wudah attributed the achievements made so far to the commitment of the command and the support of the public.

He explained that the robbery suspects were killed in a gun battle and that their bodies had been deposited at the mortuary of Abia State University Teaching Hospital, Aba.

The commissioner explained that those who were killed belonged to a gang based in Isiala Ngwa North local government, who had terrorised travellers along the Umuahia/Port Harcourt expressway.

He said the police recovered guns, ammunition and household items from the gang after the operation.

The police, he said, also smashed another gang at Okoko-Item in Bende local government on Aug. 8.

He said items recovered from the operation included AK-47 rifle, pump action gun, Mark IV rifle, locally-made pistols, live and expended ammunition, television sets, electric generators and charms.

Wudah said the pastor and members of his congregation attacked the police on Sept. 29, in an attempt to release his wife, Mrs Adaku Okafor, who allegedly tried to escape from the police at a check-point.

Enugu Assem

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—THE Enugu State House of Assembly yesterday told the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the alleged collapse of democratically elected Government at the Local Government level in Enugu State that there was nothing like the collapse of democracy in the third tier of government in the state.