

Police crush armed robbery gang in Imo

BY CHIDI NK-
WOPARA

OWERRI—IMO State Police Command has dislodged a four-man armed robbery gang that had in the past terrorized innocent citizens.

The gang met its Waterloo yesterday while robbing some motorists and commuters at a notorious spot, known as "no man's land", along the ever busy Owerri-Onitsha expressway.

Vanguard gathered that a member of the gang was gunned down by the police, while the rest vanished through the nearby bush.

Confirming the story during an interview, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Samuel Oodee, said the police acted swiftly on getting the tip off.

He said: "The police stormed the robbery

scene but the hoodlums, on sighting the approaching police patrol van, immediately opened fire. Police responded and when the gun duel died down, one of the

hoodlums lay dead."

According to the PPRO, a commuter bus SD 715 KSF, with the inscription "Abia Line", was under attack when the police arrived the

scene.

Items recovered from the hoodlums included a Jeta car, which was earlier snatched from its owner, sundry personal effects and N4,000 cash.

....Impound over 2,000 motorbikes in Enugu

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—NO fewer than 2,000 commercial motorbikes, popularly called Okada, have so far been impounded by the police in Enugu.

The motorbikes were impounded by policemen from Uwani, Awkunanaw, Ikilike, Garki, New Haven, Ogui, Central Police Station, Abakaliki Road and other police Divisions within the state capital.

The seizure followed Enugu State government's ban on the

operations of commercial motor-bikes on some major roads in the state capital, principally to checkmate robbery operations by persons using fast-moving motorbikes and to decongest the crowded roads and reduce the high rate of road accidents involving commercial motorcycle operators and their passengers.

The government recently commenced the enforcement of the law, following increasing security concerns in the state capital.

Enugu State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Job Doma, who spoke on telephone to confirm the ongoing arrest of the erring Okada riders, said recent security reports showed that men riding on fast-moving motorbikes robbed unsuspecting residents. He said some of the victims of the robbery attacks were trailed right from the banks where they had gone to withdraw some money, stressing that the police had to perform their lawful duty of protecting innocent citizens and their property.