

# Bandits ambush police taking kidnap suspects to court in Delta

By Emma Amaize

●...as Police kill 3, Corporal injured

**A**SABA—BANDITS laid ambush between Issele-Azagba and Otulu Junction on the Benin-Asaba Expressway for a team of the Special Anti-Kidnapping and Cyber Crime Squad, SAKCCS, Delta Command, conveying three suspected kidnappers to a magistrate court at Umunede. Vanguard gathered that the gangsters opened fire on the police, but at the end of a fierce gun battle, three of bandits were killed, while a police corporal was injured.

Delta State's Commissioner of Police, Mr. Zanna Ibrahim, told *Vanguard*: "At about 8:30a.m., a team of SAKCCS operatives on court duty assignment to Umunede Magistrate Court, led by an ASP, alongside three male suspected kidnappers, Abubakar Mohammed, alias Buba; Suleiman Ibrahim, alias

Carlos, and Auta Mohammed, ran into an ambush between Issele Azagba/Otulu on the Asaba-Benin Expressway.

## Killed

"A gun battle ensued between the gang and the team resulting to sustenance of gunshot injury on the left hand of a member of the team, while the three suspects sustained various degrees of gunshot injuries.

"The suspects were rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, for treatment, where they were later confirmed dead by the doctor on duty. The bodies were deposited at the hospital's morgue."

In related development, a Police patrol team from Abbi Division, Delta State,

arrested two suspected kidnappers heading to Ozoro from Abraka, shortly after they abducted a victim they hid in their hideout in a forest for ransom.

## Dep Speaker rescued

Meanwhile, the Deputy Speaker of Uvwie Local Government Area, Rotemi Ukwade, kidnapped by four gunmen, was rescued at Omavovwe Bus Stop, Agbarha-Otor.

The state's Police boss, Mr. Ibrahim, told *Vanguard*: "The police patrol team attached to Abbi Division received information that suspected kidnappers were heading to Abraka from Ozoro.

"The team intercepted the suspects along Abbi Roundabout in a black-

coloured Lexus SUV.

"The suspects were arrested and the vehicle, with number plates JJJ 940 DQ, recovered.

"They confessed that they snatched the vehicle at gunpoint and their victim, 44-year-old Christopher Agashia, kept in a forest for ransom.

"Unfortunately, the victim escaped from them. Both cases are under investigations."

On the arrest of Lucky, who kidnapped one Bridget Akwecheme of Okoribi, Warri, on April 8 at Uti Junction, Warri, he said the victim, en route Benin, saw the suspect the next day in a commercial bus and alerted the police.

His words: "Safer Highways Patrol 013 stationed at Effurun, by Army Checkpoint, swung into action, pursued and arrested the suspect. The case is under investigation."