

MAKOKO: A street of flood, debris and sinking homes in Makoko, Yaba, Lagos. PHOTO: Lamidi Bamidele.

Police uncovers mass grave of kidnap victims in Benue

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—OPERATIVES of the joint security patrol team in Benue State code-named Operation Zenda, have discovered a mass grave of kidnap victims at Gbatse village in Ushongo Local Government Area of the state.

According to a Police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the grave was discovered, following a tip-off, behind the house of a suspected criminal and kidnap kingpin (name withheld) who ran a syndicate between Ushongo and Kwande Local Government areas.

The source said: "He kills his victims and collects their properties such as cars and motorcycles and even when ransoms are paid for the release of his victims, he kills them and bury them behind his house.

"So far, our men have exhumed nine bodies from the mass grave and more are being

dug up. Some persons have gone to identify the remains of their relatives that were dug out.

"I will advise anyone whose relation got missing in that axis or was kidnapped and has not been released by the kidnappers to go to Gbatse village and see if they can identify some of the corpses.

"The operation has led to the

arrest of the ringleader and some of his gang members, while others escaped. But we will get them because our men are on their trail and I can assure you that we will get all of them, though I cannot give out any names for now.

"But so far, those we arrested have confessed to killing most of their victims. According to their confessional statements,

when they abduct their victims, they call for ransom from their relations, collect the ransom and still go ahead to kill their victims."

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent Catherine Anene, confirmed that a Police operation was ongoing in Ushongo, promising that details would be made public soon.

Flood sweeps away 6-year-old boy, sacks 32 villages in Benue

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—A six-year-old boy was swept away by flood, following four days of torrential rainfall in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

The flood, which also submerged 32 villages in the Agatu, swept away all the houses and valuables in the affected villages and rendering over 4,000 persons homeless.

Vanguard gathered from a source in the area that over 100 fish ponds in the affected villages were also submerged in the

visited the affected areas in the company of Coordinator of Christian Aid in the area and the Local Emergency Management Agency Desk Officer, adding that the incident had created a huge humanitarian crisis in the area.

He said: "I have also directed the victims to relocate to Usha community and other safer places to prevent further loss of lives, while we wait for intervention and assistance from individuals and the government."

Police nab 5 robbers in Katsina

By Bashir Bello

KATSINA—A five-man gang of notorious robbers terrorising Katsina metropolis has been busted by men of the Katsina State Police Command.

Katsina.

"The victim was coming out of his vehicle when the hoodlums attacked him and robbed him of his handset. The suspects confessed to the commission of the offence and

haulage firm
N14m truck