



CrimeGuard

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4 policemen die in gun battle in Lagos

• 16 robbery suspects killed, 209 others arrested

By Evelyn Usman and Joshua Igboba

When the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Police Command, Zubairu Muazu, assumed duty as the command boss in January this year, many were not too impressed with his operational style, when compared to some of his predecessors. But he was not bothered by the assumptions of people around him as he concentrated on the job of policing Lagos and curbing criminal activities.

As he prepares to hand over the baton to his successor, following his promotion to the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police, Crime Guard decided to take a peep into the achievements of the command under AIG Muazu's watch.

It was discovered that between January and October this year, the command foiled 162 robbery incidents while 209 robbery suspects were arrested. A break down of this figure shows that 21 of them were arrested in January, 10 in February, 26 in March, 42 in April, 27 in May and 17 in June. In the month of July, 49 robbery suspects were arrested. In August 17 arrests were recorded and 15 in September.

However, in the process of carrying out these



arrests, some of the suspects opened fire on policemen in their bid to escape.

During such encounters, some of them were killed. Between January and September, 16 robbery suspects were gunned down. A break down of the figure shows that three suspects died during encounters with the Police in February, two in March, one in April and two in May. The months of June and July recorded three deaths of robbery suspects and four in

September.

The Lagos State Police command on its part, lost four policemen during these encounters. Statistics shows that the command lost a policeman in each month of May, June, July and August. The command also recorded two attacks on policemen within this period. In the period under review, 100 arms and 231 ammunitions were recovered.

Crime Guard noted that the command did



not record any case of kidnap since the reign of Muazu as CP but eight cases of kidnap were foiled between January and September, with two each in the months of March and April, three in May and one in June.

From the Statistics, arrest of suspected cultists ranked the second highest number of arrest after robbery with a total of 195. There were also 33 cases of cultist clashes within the period under review.

A breakdown of the figure shows that eight cultists were arrested February, five in March and 43 in April. The month of May had 14 arrests, June recorded the highest figure with 64 suspected cultists arrested. July had 35, August 26 and September 13.

19 vehicles were recovered from robbery suspects between January and September 2019 with one each in the months of April, May, June, August and September and two each in the months of January and March.

However, eight vehicles were reported snatched by robbers while 12 were removed from where they were parked. Vehicles driven away by robbers who posed as drivers were 6, between January and September. Suspects arrested according to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Elkana Bala, were charged to court.

From the foregoing, much is expected from the incoming CP, as Lagosians, are looking forward to sleeping with their two eyes closed.