

Police, Vigilante hunt fleeing armed robbers

The police and combined efforts of Okpella Vigilante Committee are on a man-hunt for a fleeing gang of six suspected armed robbers who escaped into the bush between Okpella and North Ibie/Uzairue Tuesday afternoon; abandoning their vehicle after being chased by the vigilante.

The suspects, the police said had earlier carried out robbery **operations** in Ondo State and infiltrated into Edo in their escape bid as they rampaged and snatched a Toyota Corolla car with registration number Lagos: UV IO8 KJA at Ifon which was later recovered by Edo North police command.

Also with Edo North Area Command is a white HILUX pick –up van with registration number Lagos: XT 640 EKY allegedly used by the suspects and recovered by Okpella Vigilante and handed over to the police.

They were also said to have shot on sight, a mobile police man at Sabongida-Ora as they headed towards Auchu before finding their way to Okpella where **men** of the Vigilante in the area trailed and intercepted them.

On the trail of the suspects in the bush were two yet to be identified dead bodies which the vigilante strongly believed were victims of circumstance who might have been confronted by the hoodlums and shot for their unwillingness to show them the way.

Commandant, Okpella Vigilante Committee, Mr. Mohammed Oseni Sani told THE NIGERIAN OBSERVER that a farmer earlier seen on the run told them during the search that he heard unusual gun shots in the direction where the Hilux pick-up van was found.

Chairman, Okpella Vigilante Committee, Chief Obalor lamented the lack of **operational** materials by his men who he said had continued to keep itself afloat without support and appealed to the comrade governor to provide the outfit with surveillance vehicle and other logistics.

Chief Obalor noted that the security body had tried spiritedly to make impact even in the face of lack, adding that the vigilante would be a reference point if given necessary assistance by government.