

COVER NEWS

The men of the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF) "Operation Flush Out" Sector 3 Ahoada in the Ahoada East Local Government Area of Rivers State have arrested (nine) 9 out of ten armed robbers at Ihuama and Obumeze communities of the Local Government Area.

The robbery suspects have gone to the residence of Sir Ngozi Abu, the State Accountant General at his country home but were not lucky.

Their arrest followed at tip off by a reliable and close source to the JTF authorities in the area.

Sources also disclosed that the tenth robber fled during the attack on them by the security agents.

The officer in-charge of the Joint Military Taskforce at Ahoada, Captain Bello while parading the culprits, hinted that the suspects will undergo a thorough investigation to ascertain their level of involvement in the incident.

Reacting to the incident, the Executive Chairman of Ahoada East Local Government Council, High Chief (Hon.) Cassidy .O.W. Ikegbidi frowned at the heinous acts of the suspects stressing that the government will not sit on the fence to see a degeneration to *mafiaso* activities in the area.

High Chief Cassidy Ikegbidi commended the men of the Joint Task Force for their efforts in arresting the culprits.

Also speaking, the State



The Armed Robbery Suspects being Paraded by the Police

9 Armed Robbery Suspects Arrested

Accountant General, Sir Ngozi Abu thanked God for exposing the hoodlums.

Abu also thanked the security agents on their effort at foiling the intention of the robbers.

He advised the people, especially youths in the area to refrain from evil

By Our Reporter

deeds and seek God's intervention to enable them work hard to ensure their livelihood rather than engaging in anti-social activities that do no good to anybody.

Captain Bello said this "I and my

men are prepared to give miscreants and the likes of these ones arrested a run for their nefarious activities. Ahoada East must be made safe for citizens".

Captain Bello advised residents to go about their normal business without fear of being attacked.

Rivers Civil Servants To Get New Pay Package

The newly appointed Commissioner for Information in the State Mrs. Ibim Semenitari stated over the weekend in Port Harcourt while speaking with newsmen that a review of workers salaries and emoluments was imminent.

It is not unexpected that considering the harsh economic conditions in the country occasioned by the recent economic meltdown that a government in the mold of that of Rivers State that prides itself as a humane one should see it as a matter of urgency to review salaries and conditions of service for the teeming workers in the state.

In view of this a committee charged with the responsibility of appraising the current pay package or scale of workers had been put in place.

This committee *Beam Checks* learnt, is to be headed by the number one civil servant in the state, Head of Service, Mrs. Esther Anucha.

By Paschal Agbada & Wilson Uchendu

The Government spokeswoman Mrs. Semenitari, who was until her appointment the publisher of *BusinessEye* disclosed that the review became mandatory based on

what the present governor Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi has set out to do in terms of bettering the lots of civil servants in the state when he said that workers are entitled to "a living wage".

A director in the state ministry of Education told this publication that this is the first time a state government in the Federation has resolved to pay the same salary structure with that of the Federal civil service.

The commissioner reiterating the governor's stance noted that with the coming review the state government would make sure that no state in the federation pays a higher or juicier salary package than that of Rivers.

Expressing his view about the development, a civil servant in the Ministry of Health, Mr. Wokoma Emmanuel stated that the state government appears ready to drive home the much touted dividends of democracy in the state.

Mr. Wokoma said: "If this comes to be true, then I will have no problem training all my children to the tertiary level".

Another staff of the ministry of lands enthused that with such a mouth watering scale, "there will be no more talk of incessant strikes".



Mrs. Ibim Semenitari