

Robbers kill policeman in Benin

VINCENT ADEKOYE, Benin

• 3 others injured

Dare devil robbers who commenced their deadly operations in Benin, Edo State capital last week with the killing of three policemen attached to the anti-robbery squad of the command, have again shot dead another policeman, injuring three others weekend in the state capital.

Daily Champion gathered from source close to the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Bala Hassan, that three other police officers, who were in the patrol vehicle are now on danger list in a private hospital in Benin as a result of the injuries sustained from the attack.

It would be recalled that three policemen attached to the Edo State Police Command were shot dead in Benin City last week by a gang of armed robbers who invaded a commercial bank located in the heart of the city.

The development came exactly 18 months after some gang of dare-devil robbers killed about 28 policemen at various duty posts in the state.

The sad development forced the then Inspector-General of Police, (IGP) Mr. Tafa Balogun to order mass transfer of all cadre of serving policemen from the state.

The last weekend incident brings to four the number of policemen so far killed by robbers in the state since last week when the new Police Commissioner, Mr. Hassan assumed duty in the state.

Report said the slain policeman was in the company of three other officers and were on patrol duty within the GRA Benin last Friday when some gunmen suspected to be armed robbers opened fire on them.

He was said to have died instantly while other occupants of the patrol vehicle, sustained gun injuries and were rushed to a private hospital in Benin.

Spokesman of the

Command, Mr. Peter Ogboi, when contacted, confirmed the incident saying that it was not a targeted killing, adding that the robbers were afraid that the policemen were trailing them hence they opened fire to defend themselves.

He called on residents of the state, particularly Benin, to assist the command with useful information that might lead to arrest of robbers in the state.

He however refused to give the rank of the dead officer and his name.

Ban on Okada hits Lagos commuters hard

ADEZE OJUKWU

SIGNS of commuter discomfort arising from the recent ban placed on Okada operators by the Lagos State government began to emerge last Sunday night with thousands of commuters stranded at bus-stops and street corners in the metropolis in search of non-existent Okada operators to convey them to their destinations.

It would be recalled that Governor Bola Tinubu, had last Wednesday, placed the ban, warning that violators of the new directive would pay N50,000 fine. They are allowed to carry out business between 7am and 6pm daily.

State Information and Strategy Commissioner, Mr. Dele Alake who spoke for government cited security reasons as the major consideration for the

restriction.

"The decision was to reduce the increasing incidence of robbery attacks allegedly carried out by motorbike operators in the state," he had stated.

Meanwhile, the state government, weekend extended the ban to cart pushers also citing security reasons.

Daily Champion investigations Sunday night, at Mile 2, Festac, Orile and Okokomaiko areas of