

# DPO smashes robbery gang

• EMMANUEL EDOM

**L**AGOSIANS plying Iyana Obalagando-Isheri Idimu axis of Lagos Metropolis will now heave a sigh of relief as the notorious gang of armed robbers terrorizing residents and commuters in the area has been smashed.

The six-man gang met their Waterloo in a crossfire with the Igando Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Ambrose Agbedo, while operating between Igando and Isheri Idimu road.

Eye witnesses' accounts told *Daily Champion* that it took the bravery of Agbedo, a chief superintendent of police (CSP) to single handedly smash the notorious gang.

One of the witnesses, a commercial motorcyclist popularly called *okada*, narrated how he mobilized other riders to assist the DPO in the pursuit of the fleeing robbers.

According to his account, the DPO was driving in his private car from Iyana Obalagando area when he sighted the robbers operating with an 18 seater Mazda commercial bus, marked (ONDO, XA 896 GBA) and painted in the Lagos state colour.

He was said to have trailed them to Akesan junction through his divisional headquarters at Igando, where he alerted his patrol team and Idimu Police Division for assistance through his mobile phone.

However, the robbers were said to have shot sporadically at the DPO's car upon suspecting the trail.

In response, *Daily Champion* gathered, that Agbedo returned fire for fire and in the process shot and killed one of the robbers and wounded others.

Unable to withstand Agbedo's fire power and on noticing the large number of *Okada* riders in pursuit, the robbers were said to have rammed their bus into the DPO's car and detoured through the pipeline road, Idimu, where they allegedly fled while abandoning the bus and their deceased member.

He further revealed that when search was conducted on the bus, two Ondo State vehicle plate

## • 1 killed, vehicle recovered

numbers XC 542 REE and XA 896 GBA were recovered.

The *okada* rider, who praised the bravery and effort of the DPO during the incident, said it took the arrival of Police reinforcement from Igando and Idimu Divisions, to free Mr. Agbedo from the jubilant crowd at Idimu, who had carried him shoulder high after the operation.

When *Daily Champion* visited the Igando Division for verification and confirmation, the bullet riddled bus said to have been used by the robbers was seen parked right in front of the Police Division, while the DPO's damaged car was parked in an auto mechanic workshop at Akesan Road, undergoing repairs.

Police sources at the Division who would not want their names in print confirmed the story, noting that the DPO had as a result of several

complaints by victims of the gang, last month ordered the anti-robbery squad to ambush the robbers which did not yield result.

"Infact, due to complaints by victims of the gang, the DPO last month ordered us to lay ambush on this very gang. Some of the victims told us that the gang operates like one chance robbers, they use this commercial bus to deceive unsuspecting passengers, who they will carry to bush path, naked them, rub pepperish substance on their faces before dispossessing them", our source said.

On why the gang strip-naked its victims, the source said "the pepperish substance makes it difficult for identification while no person would readily render help to a naked person walking along the road, because they might be seen as

mad people and this method helped the gang to always escape arrest in the past and that was why they have been terrorizing people along this Iyana Obalagando-Isheri road", the source further said.

Though the DPO refused to comment on the robbery, he however referred this reporter to the Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO).

When contacted, the PPRO, Mr. Frank Mba, a Superintendent of Police (SP) who confirmed the incident, praised the *okada* riders' efforts while urging *Lagosians* to always cooperate with the Police to combat crime.

Meanwhile, the remains of the deceased robber has been deposited in the police mortuary, while investigation is said to be on, with a view to apprehending others at large.

## LG Chairmanship aspirant promises to tackle infant mortality

KENNETH OFOMA, Abakaliki

**A** chairmanship aspirant in Ivo local Government of Ebonyi State and a member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mr. Chibwe Mmakwe, a pharmacist, has vowed to tackle the menace of maternal mortality and infant mortality prevalent in his council if elected chairman in the coming council poll on July 10.

Mmakwe expressed concern over the health condition of people in the grassroots and promised to make primary health care accessible to his people if he succeeded at the poll.

The chairmanship aspirant spoke at his country home Ishiagu, while briefing newsmen on his programmes for the people.

According to him, "there are things that made me cry one day, I came home to see one of my cousin's wife in labour and before

they could find help she died during child birth. We are talking about infant mortality. The primary health care is non-existent here and this is the function of the local government".

He said that his professional experiences both in private and public life over the years would be utilized to ensure that international partners are involved in the funding and implementation of the project.

"My priority is to make sure that you don't have to trek more than 30 kilometers within any area in Ivo to get access to healthcare facilities. These are very simple primary health care issues that cause little or nothing to be able to maintain. But because they lack vision, because it is not important to them but my priority is to make sure my people have access to qualitative healthcare" he stated.

On the need for peace in Ivo council, Mmakwe said that the council had in the last few years been bedeviled with crisis but assured that holistic approach would be adopted to maintain peace in the area, noting that the previous leaders of the council that masterminded crisis would not be allowed to cause problem in the area anymore.

"In the last 10 years from 1999 till date, the people that have piloted the affairs of Ivo council have managed it badly and so wrongly. We should look at them and see that within that period and what role they played to create those crises.

But thank God that now people are realizing that they need peace and with the help of Governor Elechi we have been able to achieve peace but it is not achieving peace but also sustaining peace and that is my target," he said.