

## Bank robbery: Bankers are behind it - Police

From Bola Ojuola, Lagos

**T**he Lagos state commissioner of police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, has accused some criminally minded bank officials of being the brain behind the increasing cases of bank robberies in the state, just as another gang of fifteen daredevil armed bandits attacked a branch of First Bank at Ikorodu last week.

Adebayo told journalists that most of the bank robberies usually act on information given to them by some bank staff who are collaborators, adding that some of them (bank staff) had been arrested by his men.

The early yesterday's attack on the Ikorodu branch of First Bank came a few days after more than 35 heavily armed robbers attacked a branch of Skye Bank at Isolo area of the city where one of the guards on duty was shot dead.

Narrating the story of yesterday's attack to *Daily Trust*, the Lagos state police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, said the robbers went to the bank located near the sea at Aiyetoro area of Epe at about 1 am.

According to him, they started shooting indiscriminately to ward off any challenge. After breaking into the bank hall through the front door, they headed straight to the strong room, he said.

Unfortunately for them, the divisional police officer (DPO) of the area and anti-robbery policemen had gotten wind of their operation and they raced to the scene.

After a battle that lasted more than three hours, the

robbers were said to have given up and fled through the same waterways they came from. In the scuffle, they abandoned one giant chisel, 107 expended and one live 7.62mm calibre ammunition. The robbers were said to have gone without removing any money and this was later confirmed by the bank's branch manager, Mr. Jerome Ojolo.

It would be recalled that the police had arrested two men with bullet wounds in connection with the robbery of Sky Bank last weekend at Isolo. More than 35 robbers armed to the teeth had gone to the bank in five vehicles, including three commercial mini-buses, one BMW and a Prado jeep.

The incident lasted several hours before the police could over power the criminals.

More than ten bank robberies had taken place in different locations of Lagos within the last few months, but mostly foiled by the police.



Sunday Ehindero, IGP