

Daylight robbery at Wuse, cop killed

Armed robbers numbering about 30 yesterday attacked a Bureau de Change in Wuse Zone 4 in the Federal Capital Territory, killed a mobile policeman on guard duty, wounded a trader and carted away undisclosed sums of money.

Chairman of Al-Gulan Bureau de change Alhaji Isah Musa Yaro, who spoke to our reporter, said the robbers drove to his office in six cars and were engaged in a fierce gun battle by Mobile Police

By Shehu Abubakar

Constable Josiah Abu, whom they over powered.

Yaro said the robbers attacked the Bureau de change around 12.17pm and that the operation lasted for about 30 minutes.

He said, "All the robbers that came had guns. Some had two while others had one each. Of the 30 minutes that the operation lasted, they wasted about 22 minutes exchanging fire with that

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mobile policeman (Josiah Abu). Immediately they arrived, they shot the policeman in the abdomen. We saw him cock his gun and open fire at them. A few minutes later, he fell down”.

Alhaji Yaro also said, “The policemen they usually post to the place are many, but only two came today and the other policeman ran away when the robbers came. The efforts of that mobile policeman was what scared the robbers”.

The wounded trader was identified as Malam Ahmadu, who is receiving treatment at a government hospital in the FCT. Yaro said the robbers broke a drawer in his office and took away one hundred thousand naira. They also snatched one thousand dollars and a thousand naira from a customer who went there to exchange money.

Constable Josiah Abu was taken to Wuse general hospital in the FCT but he later died while undergoing an operation. The traders called on the federal government to improve police welfare and beef up security in the nation as constant attacks on Bureaus de change across the country are capable of ruining their business.

Confirming the incident, FCT police commissioner Mr John Haruna said his men have intensified efforts towards arresting the robbers. He said, “If you go round the town as we are talking now, you will see several police patrol teams with the armoured personnel carriers (APC) at strategic locations. We are determined to fish

them out and arrest them and we shall succeed.”

He also said, “On Saturday we encountered a similar gang operating in a convoy of four cars. My men opened fire at them. They ran and abandoned a car and one automatic pistol in it. We have found out that the car was earlier reported snatched in Nassarawa state”.

CP Haruna, who was very optimistic that the suspected robbers will soon be arrested

by his men, said the police have also smashed another gang of suspected armed robbers in the FCT and recovered a pistol.

It would be recalled that in the last few months alone, armed robbers attacked bureaux de change at the Murtala Mohamed Airport in Lagos, and then in Kaduna and Kano. They carted away hundreds of thousands of dollars in the various operations.

Cont. from pg. 1 Gov Daniel loses N1.5bn in 4 years

May 2007, while the value of his properties abroad, which stood at N376m in 2003, rose to N733m in May 2007.

The value of the governor's undeveloped land assets is put at N61m, vehicles was put at N147.4m, investments in companies was N2.5b, investments in shares (adjusted) N255m, household items were valued at N85m and while bonds were worth 1 million. Yeye Olufunke Daniel, according to the declaration, was worth N157.7m as at May 2007, as against N99m in 2003.

Adedayo, who was flanked by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Chief Yomi Majekodunmi at the briefing, also said the governor's action in declaring his assets was not belated “as he is just doing this to emulate the President, who declared his assets recently. The information he is making public today, is already in the Code of Conduct Bureau forms which has been submitted before the election in 2003 and 2007.”

He added that, “in order

to attract more quality personalities to public office in Nigeria, we need to encourage an atmosphere of openness in public records. Individual Nigerians, irrespective of status, creed or religion should be allowed to have access to public records and information about anyone in public office. This is just what the governor has done”.

He also said that the development has spurred the governor in throwing his weight behind efforts to have the Freedom of Information bill passed by the current National Assembly. Adedayo said Daniel has urged the state's representatives at the National Assembly “to ensure the revival and urgent passage of the Bill. For Nigeria to join the league of developed democracies we need to entrench the culture of freedom of information, which to us in Ogun state is the bedrock of an enduring democracy.”