

Robbers kill two policemen in Kano

Armed robbers weekend killed two policemen in Gwarzo local government area of Kano state and stole an undisclosed amount of money from a filling station, *Daily Trust* reports.

The gunmen who came in two vehicles to the Ahmed filling station in Gwarzo at about 7pm on Friday shot a policeman dead while trying to apprehend one of them.

Attempts to reach the police public relations officer, DSP Baba Muhammad failed as his GSM telephone was said to have been switched off. But a senior police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the incident and said that the command has already launched a massive manhunt for the killers.

One of the petroleum attendants who witnessed the attack, Malam Kabiru Gwarzo told *Daily Trust* that the robbers had initially parked near the station, while some of them moved towards the manager's office, others stood along the road.

According to him, the gunmen's movement had "aroused suspicion of the manager who ordered me to call the police. I then phoned the divisional police officer and told him about the suspicious movement of the people.

It was when the two policemen, constable Yakubu alias Jacob and Corporal Stephen came to find what the suspected men were doing that they met their death".

Malam Kabiru said when the two policemen arrived in mufti, one of them identified as Constable Yakubu ac-

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costed one of the gunmen believing they were just harmless intruders, and asked him their mission in the filling station. It was while the late police constable attempted to arrest the suspect that another member of the gang suddenly brought out a pistol and shot him on the head. He was said to have died instantly.

At that juncture, the eyewitness said, his colleague, the late Corporal Stephen attempted to escape, but he was shot on the leg by the same assailant. He later died that night at Gwarzo General Hospital.

Malam Kabiru said the

robbers later stormed the filling station and carted away an un-disclosed amount of money, which he had earlier tried to take out of the station after they started shooting at the police.

Pandemonium immediately ensued as traders in the nearby Gwarzo market, adjacent to the filling station; scampered into safety. Several people were said to have been injured while the traders' wares worth millions of Naira were looted.

According to Malam Shehu Mai Tabarma, one of the traders, the gunshot sent traders in the market running while some hoodlums took advantage of the pandemonium to steal.

'While I was running, I was stopped by some boys and they asked me to surrender my money to them, and as I later heard so many people too lost both their wares and money to hoodlums who took advantage of what happened" he said.

Kano has witnessed series of attack on policemen and other security agents in recent times. Over 11 policemen were killed at Panshekara, while four others including an ASP were also killed at Sharada police station by armed gunmen.

Two days before the Sharada attack, four men of the Federal Road Safety Commission were murdered by some armed men.

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