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Robbery suspects: Attacks on filling stations are with staff connivance

By Eugene Agha, Lagos | Publish Date: May 19 2016 5:00AM

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Robbery suspects who specialise in attacking filling stations

Suspected robbers have attacked a manager of a petrol station in Lagos in the presence of his son and carted away the sum of N6m. The petrol station manager, Mohammed, was set to take the money home when he was attacked by the gang.



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The six-man armed robbery gang, who were recently arrested in Lagos, said they had robbed many filling stations in Lagos, Ogun, Abuja, Nasarawa and Niger States.

But in a confessional statement, one of the suspects, Ikechukwu Okereke, alleged that staff of petrol stations usually provide them with the information which they used to attack.

He said: "Most of the armed robbery attacks at petrol stations are carried out in connivance with some members of staff. We operate in the evening, when filling station managers would have collected money realised for the day.

"We usually storm filling stations in our operational vehicle. Some members of staff of filling stations gave us information on when exactly to strike. Most of them assisted us because of their poor pay. Some of them are paid as low as N4,000 per month. They rely on stipends from customers and illegal adjustment of metres.

"In the case of the Nasarawa filling station operation, we had information that the manager would be coming to collect the day's sales by 6:30pm. We arrived at the vicinity around 6p.m. to survey the area. We struck as the manager was about leaving the filling station. We collected the cash he was with. We discovered that the amount



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was tN6m. And we shared it equally with the informant.

“Another operation I partook in was that of Masaka, close to Abuja, where I got N400,000. The third operation was also in Nasarawa. But it was foiled owing to miscalculations on our part. One of us jumped out of the car before we reached the filling station and started shooting. This made our target to run away. We left out of frustration and invaded a bakery, where we got just N90,000.”

The suspects were arrested by the Special Intelligence Response Team (SIRT) led by Superintendent of Police Abba Kyari.

Their arrest was sequel to the recent report on the increasing rate of armed robbery attacks on filling stations across the country.

The suspects included Bende Mohammed, 38, Mohammed Usman, popularly known as “Dogo”, and Ikechukwu Okereke.

Some of the suspects were arrested in their hideouts in Lagos.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Olabisi Kolawole, said that two persons were killed in one of the operations at a filling station in Masaka, close to Abuja, while several others sustained injuries.

Kyari and his team had been on the trail of the suspects for some time before they eventually got a lead into the case.

She said: “Kyari got Musa’s telephone number. He put a call across to him, informing him that he had another filling station job for him. As usual, he reportedly invited other members of the gang and headed for the meeting point, only to walk into the welcoming hands of operatives of the SIRT, led by Abba Kyari. The suspects would be charged to court.”

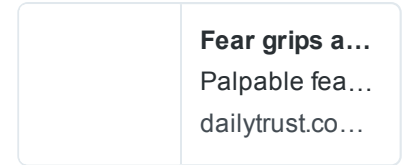
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