

Robbers kill four policemen in Lagos

By Alex Olise and
Odita Sunday

It was another moment of sorrow for the police in Lagos yesterday when armed robbers ambushed a patrol team at Bode Thomas, Surulere area of the state, killing four policemen after a gun duel.

The incident occurred a week after four policemen attached to the State Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Ikeja were killed when they attempted to foil a bank robbery at the Abule-Egba area of the state.

The police patrol team attached to Bode Thomas Police Division, had gone out for a normal routine patrol at about 5 a.m and as they approached a junction they sighted a roadblock mounted by unknown men.

They did not sense any danger and decided to remove the roadblock. But suddenly, unknown gunmen released a volley of bullets on them, killing four.

A security meeting was summoned by the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, who has also ordered his men to trail the gang.

Police sources told *The Guardian* that detectives are combing various hideouts as they sensed that the same gang that wreaked havoc last week might be responsible considering the type of weapons used.

Another source said the robbers were on their way to attack another bank when they sighted the police team and laid the ambush.

Following the attacks, the Police High Command has called for assistance from government to procure more Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCS) for the police.

This demand had led to the setting up of Police Equipment Fund Committee chaired by the Police Affairs Minister Alawei Broderick Bozimo.

Also yesterday, the Lagos State Police Command arrested a man who allegedly stacked assorted calibre of arms and ammunition inside a bag of beans.

The suspect, from Abia State was intercepted with his accomplice, who is at large, by vigilant policemen from Elere Division on their way from Akure. They were in a taxi loaded with bags of beans.

Suspecting them, the Police insisted that the bags of beans must be off-loaded and properly searched.

Four Ak 47 magazine, one Berreta pistol, thousands of live ammunition and assorted charms were found to have been stacked inside one of the bags of beans.

The Lagos State Police Command paraded the suspect yesterday, while the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of Zone 2, Mr. Adedayo

Adeoye briefed the press on the arrest.

According to Adeoye, "no one would have suspected that they had arms there. This is why we are calling on members of the public to give us information. We lost quite a number of men recently, not that we do not know our job but you know these robbers are armed with sophisticated rifles."

The AIG, who supervise Lagos and Ogun State commands noted: "Some of these weapons get into the hands of robbers through smuggling on our porous borders. Some of them, I am sorry to say come through some of our soldiers who went on peace-keeping operations, while some leak out through our policemen, the bad eggs among us."



•President Obasanjo performs the traditional ceremony of the (FCT) Minister, Malam et

OTHE Rivers State Governor, Peter Odili has formally declared his intention to vie for the position of the President and he is expected to collect the Expression of Intention Form of his party next Tuesday.

Governor Odili, who made the declaration