

# Robbers abandon N6.7m, kill two policemen

**B**ANKS and policemen on guard in such outfits have continued to remain the targets of armed robbers, who have introduced more sophistication into their *modus operandi*.

In a raid on a commercial bank in Gboko, Benue State yesterday, the men of the underworld killed two policemen who were on duty at the premises.

The same fate befell a customer, who was reportedly shot dead by one of the robbers in the banking hall.

Their success was, however, short-lived as the police intervened and stopped them from enjoying the N6.7 million they seized from the bank's vault.

Trouble started yesterday morning for the bank and its customers as robbers numbering over 30 stormed its office in Gboko South Area, shooting indiscriminately and in the process killing two policemen and a customer.

The robbers, however, could not succeed in carting away their loot as stiff resistance from a detachment of mobile policemen in the area forced them to abandon about N6.7 million they removed from the bank's vault.

A witness said that the robbers arrived the bank in a convoy of six vehicles, armed with sophisticated weapons. Upon getting to the gate of the bank, they alighted in the fashion of men acting a violent movie, opening fire at the policemen at the security post. The two policemen died instantly.

From that point, some of the robbers were said to

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have taken positions outside the bank, while their colleagues rushed inside to perfect the robbery. It was inside the bank that the unfortunate customer was gunned down by one of the trigger-happy robbers. The bandits were said to have held top officials of the bank, who they took to the strong room, where they scooped N6.7 million, kept in a sack.

While the operation was on, some of the robbers who provided cover for their colleagues, continued to shoot sporadically into the air, as they sang and danced around the bank. It was at this point that commercial motorcyclists rushed to the Gboko Area Commander's office, where they informed him of the robbery, which lasted for over 30 minutes. The Area Commander was said to have moved immediately to the scene of the robbery with a detachment of mobile policemen.

Luck ran out on the robbers when the mobile policemen arrived at the scene as they attempted to get away. The area was reportedly turned into a war zone, provoking crossfire between the police and the hoodlums. For one hour, the mobile policemen engaged the robbers in a shooting while residents fled into different directions for fear of being hit by stray bullets. In the course of the shooting, one of the robbers was killed. The robbers consequently abandoned two of their vehicles and escaped towards Katsina Ala town.

Contacted, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, confirmed the incident. He said that his men foiled the robbery. The police boss displayed an AK-47 rifle said to have been recovered at the scene by his men, alongside 25 magazines and 147 rounds of ammunition, which littered the bank premises. Ekpoudom also displayed the N6.7 million abandoned by the robbers after the foiled attempt. He said many of the hoodlums escaped with bullet wounds, saying that his men were trailing them.

## or-elect, Orji

than the murder case of Senator Iyiola Omisore and pleaded with the Federal Government and its agents to release Orji to allow him answer the call of his people to service.

He, therefore, called on the Federal Government to release the governor-elect immediately. Orji has been in detention for three months on allegation of financial crime by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).