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 **THE GUARDIAN**

Two die as police foil bank robbery in Abeokuta

From Adeyemi Adepetun, Abeokuta

AN armed robbery attack was yesterday foiled by the men of the Nigeria Police, Ogun State Command when a gang of armed robbers attacked an old generation bank in the Adatan area of Abeokuta, the state capital.

The attack however claimed the lives of two men of the command, an Assistant Superintendent of Police and a constable.

The robbery attack, according to eyewitness accounts, took place at about 130 p.m. yesterday.

Confirming the incident to journalists yesterday, the Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer (PRO), Femi Awoyale, an Assistant Superintendent, said two of their men were killed in the attack.

According to him, the robbers were about 18 in number and came to the bank with two vehicles, a Cerena bus and a white Nissan jeep, which according to him were later recovered.

"We received a distress call that an old generation bank in the Adatan area was under attack by some robbers and immediately, we deployed our men to the scene of the robbery", he stated.

He confirmed that the robbers only gained entrance to the bank premises but could not enter the banking hall because of the security system put in place by the bank. He however said that immediately the robbers spotted the police, they opened fire on them, which resulted in the death of an ASP at the entrance.

His words: "When the robbers spotted us, they opened fire on us and killed one of our men, An Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

He further said that the other police officer, a constable, was shot dead while on the traffic beat when the robbers began to shoot sporadically into the air to scare people away so that they could escape.

The Police PRO said that no arrest had been made.

However, according to an eyewitness account, the robbers attacked the bank with an AK 47 mode of a gun and some other dangerous weapons.

The witness also stated that immediately after the attack, the Police force sent an armoured tank after the robbers.

The entire area was later cordoned off by the Police.

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