

NEWS

Robbers Kill Bank Manager, Three Policemen, Others

ALEX OLISE AND
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ARMED robbers yesterday attacked a branch of a first generation bank at Mile 12 area of Lagos State killing three policemen and four civilians,

including the Bank Manager.

The Police, however, shot one of the robbers, but the gang reportedly managed to carry the body away.

Street urchins, a.k.a "Area Boys", apparently angered by the police

alleged failure to respond to a previous distress call, set the Mile 12 Police post ablaze.

It was learnt that the robbers went straight to the bank's strong room, killed the manager and carted millions of naira.

Lagos State Commissioner of Police was said to have gone to the mosque for prayers when *The Guardian* called to confirm the story.

The incident occurred at about 11.30 am.

An eyewitness said:

"One of the casualties was killed by the robbers' stray bullet as they tried to escape.

Lagos State Police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajumi said hundreds of policemen supported by Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) had been detailed to the scene to restore peace.

Ojajumi said the police were gathering intelligence with the aim of tracking down the robbers.

The spate of armed banditry in Lagos is currently giving residents of the state serious concern.

The latest killing of three policemen

brought to nine the number of them killed by robbers in the state in two weeks. On Sunday, July 29 this year, dare-devil armed robbers had trailed a bullion van from Ikeja to Oke-Afa, Isolo, area of the state, where they attacked the police team after sporadic shooting, leaving one of the officers dead.

The attack came just a week after a gang of robbers attacked a branch of one of the new generation banks at Ejigbo area of the state, killing three policemen.

Before then, three policemen were killed in another bank robbery at Gbagada area of the

state.

The state Police Command, however, said no fewer than 67 robbery suspects had been shot dead in the last two months.

Investigation by *The Guardian*, revealed that the large arms and ammunition currently in illegal hands are the major cause of the upsurge in armed banditry.

The robbers now attack virtually every weekend, mainly Thursdays and Fridays.

The Lagos State Police Commissioner Mr. Mohammed Abubakar recently charged his men to step up security operations in the state.

New Olubadan Crowned Receives Staff Of Office

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state.

On hand at the event were Osun State Governor, Olagunsoye Oyinlola, former Governors Rashidi Ladoja,

Lam Adesina and Omololu Olunloyo, Second Republic Minister, Chief Richard Akinjide, Aare

Others were Chairman of the Coronation Committee, Chief Bode Amao, Ambassador Olu Sanu, Chief Kola Daisi, Group Managing Director of Odua Investment Company, Adebayo Jimoh, Prelate of the Methodist Church, Rev. Sunday Makinde and Chief

warned 'law breakers' and perpetrators of violent acts to desist from such practices, saying all forms of thuggery, vandalism and all anti-social behaviours would not be tolerated during his reign.

He said: "My clarion call today is that all of us must join hands to restore Ibadan's greatness assured by history

or taking sides. You are now a father of all, regardless of social, religious and political affiliation. Seek true reconciliation with those who have crossed your path; you will always be recognised as long as your actions are on line," Akala said.