

Robbers kill policeman in Makurdi

THE security situation in Makurdi, Benue State capital, continued to worsen as Christmas approaches with daredevil armed robbers killing a police sergeant on Wednesday evening around the Makurdi Modern Market Road in the town.

This is as motorists in the state have shunned the once-busy Oju-Awajir Expressway due to the operations of armed bandits who have taken over that route, robbing and killing commuters at will.

Residents of the Modern Market area in Makurdi, like most suburbs of the state capital who have been under the siege of armed robbers, again came under attacks as the robbers shot sporadically, while robbing the residents.

The slain police sergeant was posted on patrol to that area and alongside his partner, had attempted to ward off the robbers.

After killing the sergeant, with his partner escaping for safety, the robbers, said to number

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

about 15 and operating in three vehicles, continued with their operations until a reinforcement came from the Makurdi 'Police D' Division to engage them in another round of shoot-out, forcing them to flee.

When contacted, the state Police Command Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, confirmed the killing of the sergeant.

He, however, said some of the robbers escaped with gunshot wounds. He, therefore, appealed to hospitals in the state not to treat any person with bullet wounds without Police clearance.

A fortnight ago, armed robbers had killed a policeman and a civilian at the Makurdi home of the Kogi State Police Commissioner, Ibe Aghanya, after successfully robbing in the area for over 30 minutes.

The increase in robbery incidents along the Oju-Awajir route came to the fore on the floor of the state House of Assembly, when the member representing Oju State Constituency, Mr. Frank Igbe, informed the House that robbers had taken over the route.

The Speaker, Mr. Terseer Tumba, appealed to the Police and the three councils on that route to organise and improve security in the area.

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tance away from the university.

The combatants, he added, perhaps decided to settle the dispute through physical combat, which he suspected, resulted in the deaths. He added that experience had shown that cult members always brought mercenaries they would fight.