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Six policemen, two robbers die in Kano raid

From Adamu Abuh, Kano

TRAGEDY struck in Kano yesterday morning as armed robbers killed six policemen.

However, it was not an entirely bad day for the police as they fought back gallantly in the process, killing two of the men of the underworld.

It was learnt that the incident occurred after about 16 men stormed the Wappa bureau de change at about 2.30a.m. But the robbers, who had already broken into eight of the bureau de change shops, met stiff resistance from a contingent of policemen stationed to oversee the area.

In the ensuing melee, the robbers armed with various assault rifles shot down a police sergeant and an assistant superintendent of police (ASP).

Afterwards, the robbers laid ambush and killed two more policemen including an ASP who drove from the nearby Sabongari market to contain the situation. Sensing that their operation had been bungled, the robbers took away the rifles and

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walkie-talkies belonging to the deceased and took the exit route out of Kano through Zaria Road.

As the robbers speedily drove out of town, the Kano police command fought back and mobilised in a commando-like fashion, ordering its men along Garun Malam, Bebeji and Garko to close all exit routes from the Zaria end.

Despite the move by the state squad, who resorted to the use of mobile phones, two other policemen were gunned down in the gun battle that ensued.

Nevertheless, the effort by the police operatives claimed two of the robbers in their mid-20s who were gunned down.

The Kano State Police Commissioner, Mohammed Yesufu, who paraded the bodies of the robbers before reporters at the Bompai headquarters of the command, described the incident as unfortunate.

Among the recovered items were four AK 47 rifles, assorted foreign currencies, expended and unused ammunition, some of the clothes and identity cards of the robbers, a 505 Peugeot car and a Chrysler 300 car with a Lagos State registration number KJ 408 AAA.

With tears rolling down his cheeks, the police chief disclosed that from preliminary investigations, it was discovered that the robbers might be students of one of the tertiary institutions in the southern part of the country.

The police chief, who ordered officers to observe a one minute silence in honour of the dead policemen, urged the public to

help the police unearth the identities of the bandits by reporting to the nearest police station anybody found with bullet wounds.

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