

Horror: Bandits Raze Station, Kill DPO, Others

From **Lawrence Njoku**,
Enugu and Emmanuel
Ande, Yola

Raid Four Banks, Shoot Manager

IT was a black day for the police in Enugu and Adamawa States yesterday and on Thursday as the two commands

lost an officer and three men to bandits and in very controversial circumstances.

In the Enugu incident,

hoodlums numbering over 20 defiled the serenity of the university town of Nsukka, where they killed the Divisional

Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Joe Ejitaga, a Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) and two yet to be identified policemen

during an attack on the station. The robbers also robbed four banks and left several others seriously injured.

At 9.30 a.m., the robbers were said to have invaded four new generation banks located along

Nsukka Township Road. They broke vaults and carted an unspecified amount of money.

In the Adamawa incident, a police constable attached to the Doubeli Station in Yola, the state capital allegedly killed

his colleague, Constable Usman Musa, who was also a driver in the station.

The Guardian learnt that an argument ensued between the late Musa and his colleague (name not disclosed) over the ownership of a torchlight inside their patrol vehicle. Witnesses said the argument ended up in a bloody fight in which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Wife of the Vice President Dame Patience Goodluck right presenting a certificate to the best all-round student Mrs. Cordelia Ekpagbe at the 1st Graduation of her Pet Project, the Aruwa Reachout Foundation in Yenagoa Bayelsa State ... yesterday.

PHOTO: PHILIP OJISUA

A'Court Quashes N5b Graft Suit Against Rivers' Official

Amaechi To Build \$150m Mega Hospital

From Lemmy Ughegbe, Abuja

THE Court of Appeal, Abuja Division yesterday terminated the trial of the Rivers State Chief of Staff, Ezebonwu Nyesom Wike, over alleged fraudulent conversion of N5 billion belonging to the state in a case brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In a unanimous verdict, the appellate court,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Stakeholders Seek State Of Emergency In Music Industry

WKBEATS /42

Bandits Kill Policemen, Others In Enugu, Adamawa

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Usman was wounded on his private part. Another source claimed that it was chopped off by his colleague. He stated that the incident occurred on Monday evening and the deceased died on Thursday at the Yola Specialist Hospital where he was receiving treatment.

The hoodlums, who struck in Nsukka had sent what sources described as "grenade" to the police station, and reduced it to rubbles after freeing the detainees at the station.

The rampaging robbers, who carried out their nefarious activities unopposed, set all the property in the station including vehicles and machines on fire.

Unconfirmed reports said a branch manager in one of the banks was shot on the leg while a commercial motorcyclist, whose identity could not be ascertained, died from stray bullets that hit him on the chest.

At the Bishop Shanaham

Hospital, Nsukka yesterday, several residents broke down in tears as doctors battled to save the lives of the injured. Several other persons who could not find their relations after the attack milled around the premises of the hospital.

The robbers were said to have invaded the sprawling town in three vehicles; a bus, a 406 Peugeot car and Hilux patrol van, with a mounted chain-like gun which rotated round the rooftop as it moved.

The patrol van was reportedly mounted on a corner of the road with its operators rotating it and releasing bullets sporadically into all direction. They allegedly forced their way into the four banks located within the same axis, released several shots, which sent customers and bank workers scampering for safety, before moving into the vaults where they carted an undisclosed amount of money.

Ejita, who had led an enforcement of policemen to the scene, was killed by

bullets fired by the robbers when they sited the police vehicle from afar.

"It was like a war zone, over 20,000 bullets were wasted. For now, nobody can confirm the casualty figure, but I wish to tell you that this is the greatest singular attack so far in this area," an eyewitness said.

The source added that two other policemen were killed in the process, while others escaped with injuries. But the DPO's lifeless body lay on the turf as the robbers operated in the banks and was only removed after they had left.

It was learnt that while those inside the banks were searching for cash, others' guarding the entrances moved into the nearby market where they snatched some *Ghana-must-go* bags from traders, which they used to take away the stolen money.

Not satisfied, the robbers were said to have invaded the Nsukka police station, freed the inmates before bombing the station. They

allegedly waited to ensure that the station was burnt before they left the scene.

The *Guardian* gathered that, the DPO had been rushed to the Nnaji Specialist Hospital at Odenigbo, where the doctors confirmed his death before his remains were moved to the Bishop Shanaham morgue.

Ejita was the Commander, NITEL Taskforce in Igbo-Etiti before he was transferred to Nsukka Divisional Police Station, a month ago to replace DPO Ike Mba.

Mba, reputed for stemming the crime rate in Nsukka, was removed after one year and transferred to Zamfara State after a church and some politicians accused him of hobnobbing with criminals.

It was difficult entering Nsukka yesterday as policemen blocked all entrances to the university town, apparently in wait for the robbers. Later information filtered in that

the robbers escaped through Uzo-Uwani Local Council and headed towards Onitsha.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ebere Amaraizu, confirmed that Ejita fell to bullets of the hoodlums, stressing that a reinforcement team had been dispatched to the area.

He said no arrests had been made, stressing that those who were wounded were receiving medical attention in the hospital.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, he denied knowledge of the death of two other policemen among others in the attack.

"I am not aware that any other person died, but I can confirm the death of the DPO and the burning of the police station."

His colleague in Adamawa, Mr. Hyelkira Daniel, who confirmed the death of Usman, said the state headquarters was waiting for the report from Doubeli Station.

He said Usman's suspected killer had been detained.