

Mob burns suspected armed robbers in Ibadan, Akwa Ibom

From Rotimi Agboluaje, Ibadan

1 A mob on Wednesday set a suspected armed robber ablaze in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital. The suspect and a member of his syndicate were said to have been involved in an accident at the state secretariat, Agodi, with the other suspect giving up the ghost immediately.

The mob pounced on the two suspected persons after they lost control of the motorcycle they rode while making away with a phone and other valuables robbed from one Adebayo Tobi.

Upon being robbed at Favos area of Bodija, Adebayo Tobi, with his car, gave the robbers a hot chase until they entered a pot-hole, lost control of the bike and fell off opposite the state office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the State Secretariat-Mokola road.

While one of the robbers died on the spot as a result of the crash, the other who

sustained injuries was hit with clubs and other weapons until he died and was then set ablaze. His body was up in flames while the other was left lifeless. Men of the state joint security task force, known as Operation Burst and the Nigerian Police Force were later sighted at the scene.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Gbenga Fadeyi, said efforts were on to investigate the incident.

A statement made available to journalists read in parts: "Incident of robbery/fatal motorcycle accident on December 16. Around 3:30p.m., one Adebayo Tobi, aged 27, of Plot 4, Owode Apata, Ibadan, was robbed at Favours area, Awolowo, Bodija, of his Vivo 400 android phone and a bag containing some papers by two okada robbers. "Sequel to this, he immediately pursued them with his Toyota Corolla car with registration number LAGOS KRD 573 CH, along Dandaru Road, opposite INEC office,

• NSCDC officer killed while rescuing Lebanese buried



where the hoodlums suddenly entered into a pot-hole and lost control of the bike and fell off. 2 ALSO, angry youths on Wednesday night set ablaze a young man suspected to be an armed robber terrorizing Abak Road and NEPA Line axis in Uyo metropolis. The corpse was seen yesterday morning leaning on an

electric pole along Abak road by Nepa Line junction.

It was gathered that the suspect was caught while trying to snatch an android phone from another person and an alarm was raised and he was immediately set ablaze.

An eyewitness, Ben Akpanette, told newsmen who visited the scene that the suspect was notorious for snatching phones and dispossessing others of their belongings around plaza axis and Abak road, adding that he met his Waterloo Wednesday night when he attempted to commit the crime at the adjoining street.

According to him, "his cup was full last night when he was caught trying to snatch phone from somebody. People raised the alarm and he was

caught then burnt to charcoal. He belonged to the gang of criminals that normally attack innocent members of the public at the plaza, Abak road and NEPA line area within Uyo, but last night, God allowed bad people like him to deal with him there."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the State, SP Macdon, said he would react when he gets brief on the incident.

3 MEANWHILE, the body of Oyewole Benjamin, an operative of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Oyo State Command, was yesterday laid to rest in Ibadan.

The deceased, who was seconded to the Oyo State joint security task force, Operation Burst, while on an official duty to rescue the Lebanese kidnapped at Panarama Farm, Mekun, Oke Alaro, fell to the bullet of the gunmen that laid ambush for the team on Saturday.

The deceased was laid to rest at his site at Araba Oluwo, Ibadan. He is survived by parent, siblings, wife and children.

Speaking during the burial, the state commandant of the NSCDC, Iskilu Akinsanya, who was represented by Assistant Commandant Akeju Yomi, expressed sympathy of the security agency to the family of the deceased, praying to God to grant the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Three nabbed for stealing diesel at telecom station

THE police in Ogun State, Ton Wednesday, apprehended a couple, Adeniyi Stephen and Adetola Adeyinka, for allegedly stealing diesel worth N8.1 million at a mast station belonging to Globacom Telecommunication Company.

One Ojo Sulaimon was also arrested alongside the cou-

ple for the same offence. Police said Adeniyi was an employee of Globacom, accusing him of masterminding the crime. The incident happened in Agosasa, Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State.

It was gathered that one Joseph Gaul Ekanem had reported at Ipokia Divisional Police headquarters that "some thieves have

been coming with a Passat car registered as BNS 261 AAA to siphon diesel from the Glo mast location in Agosasa."

With the complaint, the DPO of Ipokia Division, SP Adebayo Akeem, detailed his men as they launched an investigation into the case. The investigation, it was gathered, led to the arrest of the vehicle and

brought about the arrest of the three suspects.

Confirming the incident yesterday, the Public Relations Officer of Ogun police command, Abimbola Oyeyemi, said the suspects had admitted committing the crime.

"They also confessed to have siphoned 32,651 litres of diesel valued at N8,162,750," Oyeyemi said.