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Robbers Kill One In Ikorodu Church Raid

By Wisdom Patrick,
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Dare devil armed robbers on Sunday invaded the Ikorodu branch of a popular Pentecostal Church in Lagos killing an usher in their escape bid after they had carted away yet-to-be estimated cash.

Ikorodu Town, a Lagos suburb is notorious for church robbery. A Police source told *Daily Independent* that the bandits struck immediately after worshippers had made their offering and tithes. It was learnt that they accosted one of the ushers at gun point and forced her to lead them to the office

NAFDAC Warns Against Patronising Drug Hawkers

By Andrew Utulu
REPORTER, Lagos

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC) has warned against patronising drug hawkers. It advised that drugs should only be bought from legitimate dealers.

The agency's Deputy Director, Momodu-Segiru Momodu gave the warning in Lagos, while receiving a large quantity of fake and substandard drugs intercepted at Ojota area of Lagos by men of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operations Unit, Zone 'A'.

He said the warning became necessary because most of the drugs sold by hawkers were banned, substandard or fake.

"What we are saying in essence is that you get your drugs from legitimate drug dealers approved by NAFDAC. Don't buy from hawkers. You find out that some of these drugs are banned, some are substandard and many of them are fake," he said.

Meanwhile, the Comptroller of Customs, Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone 'A', Umar Daura, who handed over the seized drugs to NAFDAC along with two suspects in connection with the seizure, said that the products were inside a MAN Diesel truck with registration number XC 786 GWL. He said the "drugs were being transported to Kano.

"We have two suspects in our custody in respect of this seizure, which would also be handed over to NAFDAC," the Comptroller disclosed.

where the money was being counted.

The moment they got to where the money was being counted, the bandits snatched the big Ghana- must- go containing all the money and as they were about to escape they stumbled on the female usher who was coming in from another part of the church and pronto they shot her point blank. She died on the spot.

Already, detectives from the Ikorodu Police station have visited the scene of the crime and a comprehensive report of the incident sent to the State Command Headquarters. "This

is too much and too soon. How can armed robbers be attacking Churches every Sunday and we can not find solution to it. Last Sunday they robbed our church (name withheld). Something must be done very urgently. This one is very sad; imagine them killing an innocent lady who was in church to worship God. It is very sad", the police source recounted.

The source said the robbers escaped with the money on a motorcycle towards the Shagamu road. "You know the church is located along the Shagamu road and because it is like a highway, it is very easy for them to escape.

Because they have been robbing God, I can bet you that they will soon meet their Waterloo", the source added.

This raid is the third in less than two weeks in the same Church. The Police source added that the investigators are working on the theory of insider's connivance. "This is much more than mere armed robbery attacks, it is like somebody within the Church gives information to the bandits any time there is money in the church," the source said.

The state police command spokesman, Bode Ojajuni confirmed the incident but said he was yet to get full details on it.



• An unidentified man sleeping close to ballot boxes during last Saturday's re-run polls in Victoria Island, Lagos
Photo: Odutayo Odusanya

2007 Elections: Tribunals Tasked To Nigerians' Confidence In Dem

By Victor Ebimomi
REPORTER, Lagos

Leader of Britain upper Chamber, the House of Lords, and cabinet minister, Rt. Hon. Baroness Valerie Amos, has said that Nigerians hope of an entrenched democracy lies in the tribunals that would handle cases arising from the 2007 election.

Describing the election as very flawed, she advised that electoral tribunals should act swiftly and fairly in handling the cases to give confidence to

Nigerians in their quest for constitutional governance.

Baron, who was former Minister for Africa, expressed disappointment that the 2007 election was worse than that of 2003 contrary to the expectations of many people both within and outside the country.

"It is not an improvement on the last one. There were two many states that were disorganized", she said, noting that Lagos, however witnessed relative peace.

She maintained that Nigeria is central to Africa's development and so must begin to show

examples in its affairs, particularly through its democratic processes.

Baron who spoke as the guest lecturer at 2007 annual spring lecture of the Oxford and Cambridge Club of Nigeria which was held over the weekend in Lagos, said one of the way forward to credible elections in the country is for Nigerians to begin to ask for "what they want and what they will like to see".

She noted that Africa has had bad image problem in the West and it was high time African themselves changed the perception.

She also lamented that African