

# 12 Killed In Lagos Bank Robbery

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Bandits struck again on Friday in Lagos and left at least 12 persons dead, including two policemen, and about 30 others injured.

The robbers, numbering well over 10, invaded the branch of a first generation bank in the Ketu area about 10 a.m. and shot the manager on arrival.

Witnesses said the bandits came in a commercial bus and

- *Mob Razes Police Station*
- *Fashola Expresses Concern*

opened fire on an armed mobile police sergeant attached to MOPOL 20 Squadron, Ikeja. He died on the spot.

The robbery operation at the bank lasted about 45 minutes amid sporadic shooting.

As the hoodlums made away with their loot, they were said to have sprayed naira notes en route to Ikorodu when customers already held hostage at gunpoint ran out and began to scream.

This ostensibly drew the ire of the robbers, who opened fire on innocent passers-by resulting in the death of five persons on the spot.

Our reporter, who was close to the scene when the raid be-

gan, witnessed a stampede in the area, as a terrified crowd ran helter-skelter into the popular Mile 12 market.

Youths in the area, however, vented their anger on the police for not responding promptly to the onslaught of the robbers and a mob mobilised to burn down the Mile 12 Police Post.

Few of the policemen on duty fled as the youths hauled mis-

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siles at them.

A reinforcement of armed mobile policemen later arrived with an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) and fired canisters of teargas into the air, ostensibly to disperse the rioting youths, who had barricaded the roads.

When contacted, the Lagos State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Mr Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the robbery attack, saying the police have begun investigation into the dastard act.

He lamented the loss of some police officers in the battle but could not confirm the actual number of casualties at the time of filling this report.

In a swift response, Governor, Babatundé Fashola, expressed concern over the spate of armed robbery incidents in the state.

He vowed that his administration would do everything possible to combat the menace and that steps had been taken towards achieving the desire result.

The governor made the promise when he visited the mortuary at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) shortly after he was informed of the bloody shoot-out by armed robbers at the Mile 12 Market.

The corpse of one of the policemen on guard at the bank where the robbers were said to

have raided was deposited at the morgue.

The governor, who was visibly worried about the latest development, also promised to compensate victims of the shooting as well as take over the expenses of the wounded on admission at the hospital.

Fashola, however, reinstated that his administration would not allow miscreants overrun Lagos, saying: "We are battle ready to combat crime in the state."

*Saturday Independent* learnt that about 30 wounded men and women were brought to the Accident and Emergency Ward of the teaching hospital.

Speaking on the development, the Principal Medical Officer, ~~Dr. [Name]~~ who received most of the injured, said: "The emergency team on ground would try to give the best treatment to those in the ward."

"Right ~~now~~ we have sent some to the theatre and we are operating particularly those that need abdominal surgery."

He said most of those brought to the hospital had gun shots on the abdomen and on the femur.

Also speaking on the incident, Chairman, Market Men and Women Association, Perishable Section, Alhaji Haruna Mohammed, said five of the traders, who were killed during the shooting, would be bur-

ied immediately according to Islamic rites.

Fashola was originally at the hospital to commission the newly-built Cancer Screening, Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre by the Association of Lions Clubs District 404 Nigeria and donated to the state.

He assured at the occasion that the state was committed to enhancing the healthcare of the citizens.

While commending the Lions Club International District 404 for adding value to humanity, Fashola promised that government would make good use of the facility and would not let down the course of the donors.

Earlier in her address, Lion Adetope Tychus, project sponsor recalled that the desire to build the centre dated back to 2003 when as District Governor, she was propelled by the sufferings of people with cancer to initiate a screening centre.

"But by the time I visited LASUTH to discuss my dream project, I was inundated by the request of the hospital management, which appealed that we build a treatment and rehabilitation centre."

"According to the management, there was no use in screening people if we can not offer treatment and rehabilitation; so we took up the challenge and today, we have completed the building and is pleased to hand it over to government."