

Two Die As Police, Robbers Exchange Fire In Badagry

By Wisdom Patrick
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

At least two people were feared dead when policemen engaged 12 armed robbers in a shootout near Seme border in Badagry area on Sunday.

Report said at the end of the gun battle which lasted more than 30 minutes, one of the robbers and a policeman died.

It was learnt that the police had laid an ambush for the rob-

bers along Idi-iroko road in Badagry.

"When they sighted the policeman we used as bait, they opened fire on him. But the police constable dogged the bullets by jumping into the bush," a police source said.

The source said the gang has been given police in Lagos State sleepless nights. He said the gang specialised in snatching posh cars from Nigeria and tak-
ing them to Cotonou in Benin

Republic.

He said smashing the gang was a major breakthrough for the Lagos State Police Command.

The source said more than 128 cases of car-snatching in the last six months were traced to the same gang. He disclosed that the gang operated with impunity in and around Badagry, killing and maiming innocent people after dispossessing them of their belongings, including expensive

cars.

He identified one Solomon Akinlade aka *Allah-de* as leader of the gang.

Akinlade, who was reportedly dismissed from the military for official misconduct, formed the gang *based* in Badagry area of Lagos.

The state Public Relations Officer, Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident.

He, however, said no policeman died in the encounter.