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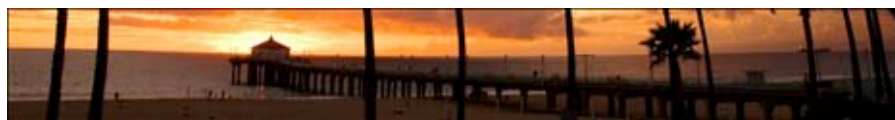
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Daily Independent (Lagos)

Nigeria: Nine Killed in Robbery Attacks

Augustine Madu-West, Felix Igbekoyi And Ekene Okoro

18 May 2011

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Lagos/Kano/Asaba — At least six persons were killed on Wednesday along Ogume-Obiaruku road, Ndokwa West Local Government Area of Delta State, during a bank robbery that lasted for hours

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The dare devil robbers stormed three new generation banks in the community and carted away millions of naira.

Luck however ran out of the hoodlums as one of them was gunned down by the vigilance group in Amai, a community close to Kwale, in an attempt to escape with several others escaped with bullet wounds.

The bandits who came in large numbers shot sporadically as they stormed the banks situated along Umusadage road about 2.p.m, using dynamite on two of the banks.

In one of the banks, the robbers were said to have cleared all the money in the vault.

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A school teacher, a young girl and four others, were felled by bullets while several others also hit by stray bullets within and outside the banks are now lying critically ill at different hospitals.

Daily Independent gathered that Kwale town has been under siege of cultists and that the vigilance group and the police were on top of the situation.

Following the development, commercial motorcyclists closed for business at 7..p,m while night life has become dull.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Charles Muka, confirmed the story, saying the robbers abandoned their vehicles and that one of them was gunned down, adding that "we are pursuing them".

In another development, a police officer and two others were on Tuesday evening sent to their early grave by armed robbers, who raided the infamous Kantin-Kwari textile market and carted away large sums of money in the process.

An eyewitness account, told Daily Independent that the robbers, who were about nine arrived Kantin-Kwari market on motorbikes and headed straight to a shop, marked NBTX, owned by Chinese, while the day's proceeds were being evacuated into a waiting bullion van contracted to convey it to the bank.

"The sporadic gunshots attracted the attention of the police officer, who was escorting the bullion van and rushed to ascertain what was happening, only to be shot by one of the robbers, including an innocent motorcyclist, who was escaping from the scene", the source said.

Meanwhile, in its effort to put a check on incessant building collapse across the metropolis as the Lagos State government has vowed to turn bulldozers on over 1,000 illegal structures, which serves as branches for the banks.

Addressing newsmen on Wednesday in Lagos, State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Francisco Abosede, revealed that out of 1,653 branches of banks operating in the state, only 100 have approved building plan, while 1,325 are still undergoing evaluation.

Abosede, who lamented that the banks took the state physical planning laws for granted, added that the state government would not hesitate to appropriately sanction any of the affected banks.

"Sanctioning the erring banks would be misunderstood by the public and international community but we urged management of the banks that operates branches that lacks

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