



DAILY

INDEPENDENT

A VOICE OF YOUR OWN



THE MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER AMONG THE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS ELITE

Vol.11 No. 222103

www.dailyindependentnig.com

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012

N150

DPO, ASP, soldier, seven others killed in Delta robbery attack

• This place was turned into a war zone, says witness



By Felix Igbekoyi and
Harris-Okon Emmanuel, Asaba

TEN persons, including a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), were reportedly killed during a bank robbery in Ibusa in the Oshimili North Local Government area of Delta State on Monday.

The attack sent residents scampering for safety, leaving the entire community virtually deserted for the rest of the day, as traders and other business enterprises closed shop.

At press time on Monday, all business activities in the community and its neighbouring towns like Ogwashi

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Coup:

News

DPO, ASP, soldier, seven others killed in Delta robbery attack

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Uku had stopped as residents ran for cover.

The dead were said to have been killed during a fierce gun duel between policemen and the hoodlums who attacked the security in three separate locations.

The name of the DPO was given as Tim Chibukewe, a Superintendent of Police.

He was the DPO of Abraja Police Station.

Also killed in the attack was an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), John Danladi, reputed to have busted many armed robbery operations in the state.

He was said to have received over seven awards from various institutions and the State Police Command for his gallantry.

Four other policemen and a soldier also lost their lives.

Monday's incident happened barely four days after the Delta State Police Commissioner, Ikechukwu Adu-

ba, paraded some armed robbery suspects and recovered American dollars worth over N3.9 million.

The police had also killed about 15 robbers and kidnappers in addition to arresting over 50 suspected criminals in connection with killings in the state.

In yesterday's incident, a gang of about eight armed robbers was said to have stormed the Ibusa community.

Eyewitnesses said the eight heavily armed youths stormed the town in a red Toyota Camry car and a bus.

They reportedly moved straight to raid two banks where an undisclosed amount of money was said to have been carted away.

When the police got information about the robbery, they stormed the scene and a gun duel ensued.

Five members of the gang were also said to have been killed while the others escaped through Ogwashi-Uku.

The police reportedly blocked the major exits from Ibusa with armoured tanks and laid ambush for the robbers before the fierce exchange of gunfire.

Danladi, one of the security officials, who was killed in the raid, our correspondent gathered, was ordained a pastor on Saturday at the Tree of Life Church, Ogwashi-Uku.

He was said to have led the anti-robbery squad that chased the criminals to Igboodo on the Benin-Agbor-Asaba expressway where some members of the squad were killed.

It was gathered that the Abraka DPO was not part of the police unit that engaged the robbers in a gun duel, but was shot when he ran into the robbers at Igboodo on his way to Asaba.

Angry youths in the town were said to have immediately mobilised and set three of the corpses of the armed robbers ablaze.

An eyewitness who preferred to remain anonymous said "the suspects were in the midst of several people and were shooting into the air while looking for an escape route. But at a point some of them ran out of bullets."

"But we must commend the police for rising to the occasion though they lost some men. The police blocked all the exit routes and confined the robbers within the town where the exchange took place," he narrated.

Another eyewitness recounted: "It was also in my presence that one of the robbers was killed by the people. The suspect was in the midst of several people and was shooting into the air while looking for escape route."

"But he ran out of bullets and the people cashed-in on that to attack him. They hit an iron rod on his head and he fell down before they people set him ablaze."

"Another member of the robbery gang was also burnt

by the mob although I can't tell how he was killed.

"In fact, this place was turned into a war zone of some sort, as the robbers exchanged fire for fire with the policemen.

"I have never seen this kind of situation in real life before. But I must commend the police for rising to the occasion."

"The police blocked all the exit routes and confined the robbers within the town where the exchange took place. We were practically picking bullets from the ground," he added.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Charles Mouka, who confirmed the deaths, said during the gun battle a Ghana-must-go bag of ammunition was recovered from the fleeing hoodlums.

Mouka, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said the police have intensified efforts to track the fleeing suspects.