

Four policemen killed as robbers raid banks in Nnewi

A GANG of 40 armed robbers stormed six commercial banks in Nnewi, Anambra State yesterday. On Tuesday, four policemen on patrol were killed at Obosi, near Nnewi at about 8 pm by another gang of robbers.

The financial institutions are all on Bank Road in the commercial city.

The robbery took place between 1am and 5am yesterday.

According to the state Police spokesman, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, who conducted reporters round the robbery scenes, the robbers succeeded in gaining entry into two of the banks.

He said that items recovered from them include four hammers, three chizzles, over 800 expended bullets, three live

From Nwanosike Onu,
Awka

ammunition, seven gas cylinders and a Mitsubishi L300 bus believed to have been used by the gang.

Agbo noted that though, the four policemen were killed in Obosi, there were strong indications that the two buses filled with gunmen that attacked them may have been the robbers who seemed to have committed the crime for fear of being trailed by the police officers.

The dead policemen, included one Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), an Inspector, a sergeant and one corporal.

Governor, Peter Obi, who was at Nnewi yester-

day morning to sympathise with the banks, reiterated his government's determination to work with the police in fighting crimes.

However, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Mr. Amusa Bello stated that the police could not stand the firepower of the robbers. He said that "what we need to stand those boys is an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) in the command."

Also, the governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Andy Uba, has sympathised with the families of the slain policemen.

A statement issued in Awka by his Special Assis-

tant Media and Strategy, Mr. Chuks Akunna, said that Uba has urged the government to beef up security.

"Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate in Anambra State, Dr. Andy Uba is deeply saddened by reports of Wednesday's early morning banks' robbery in Nnewi, the industrial capital of Anambra State, in which at least four policemen were said to have been killed by the robbers who forcibly removed millions of Naira from the banks.

"Dr. Uba frowns at the worsening security situation in Anambra State, particularly the upswing in such violent crimes as last night's, in which a record five banks were robbed with impunity."