

Bloody day as robbers strike in Lagos, Osun

• Five killed in bank raids • Three policemen involved

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FIVE persons, among them three policemen, were killed yesterday when robbers struck in four banks in Lagos and Osun states.

Four, including two policemen, were killed in Lagos. One policeman was killed and two others injured in three bank robberies in Osun. The Lagos incident occurred in Fagba, Iju when the robbers stormed a first generation bank.

The operations manager of the bank was shot for attempting to swallow the key to the vault.

The Nation gathered that the manager attempted to swallow the key after the robbers had shot their way into the banking hall.

It was learnt that as the hoodlums were looking for the branch manager and others who kept the vault's keys, the operations manager, who did not want to hand over his own key, attempted to swallow it, but was spotted by one of the robbers, who shot him.

The key was collected from him and the others promptly handed over theirs to avoid being killed.

Sources disclosed to *The Nation* that the bandits spent close to 40 minutes at the vault. They also shot some customers inside the bank. It was

learnt that the robbers while escaping, killed a motorcyclist as they shot into the air to scare passersby.

Motorists abandoned their cars and ran for cover to avoid being hit by the robbers' bullets.

The state of health of the Operations Manager could not be ascertained at press time. A source said he died at the hospital, though the Police denied the report.

Lagos Police Spokesman, Olubode Ojajuni confirmed that one of the managers was shot, and rushed to the hospital. He said he was still alive.

He said the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar, had detailed the State Criminal Investigation Department, (SCID) Pantti, Yaba, to investigate the robbery.

In the last three months, the state has had a record of at least a bank robbery every week, and in most of the incidents, policemen were killed.

In Osun, yesterday's incidents brought to nine the number of banks robbed in the



• IGP Mike Okiro

state within a month.

The Police lost a rifle to the robbers in the incidents, which took place at Ibokun in Obokun Local Government Area, Ede in Ede South council and Iwoye in Egbedore Local Government Area between 8a.m and noon.

The robbers, who allegedly stole N250, 000 from a community bank in Iwoye, met a stiff resistance from the people of the community, who mounted road blocks and pelted the armed robbers with stones.

The brave members of the community succeeded in forcing the armed robbers to abandon their operational vehicles made up of a Sport Utility Vehicle(SUV) with registration number LM 525 KJA, Honda Accord HR389 AAA and a Honda civic car with registration number BC 184 YAB.

It was learnt that the armed robbers abandoned the three vehicles when the heat on them from the community members became too hot, ran into the bush.

Members of the community vandalised the abandoned vehicles, loaded with empty "Ghana Must Go" bags, which the robbers had wanted to use to cart away their loot.

Police Spokesman Joshua Olayemi commended the people of Iwoye for confronting the armed robbers and called for more cooperation from the people.

He urged residents to alert the Police whenever they notice strange vehicles.

Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro's directive to banks to buy bullet-proof bulion vans or lose the services of policemen by October 31 is yet to be obeyed.