



# Ekiti's bloody The morning

**As the people of Ado-Ekiti count their losses in the bank robbery, which left many people wounded two weeks ago, the Ekiti State government has offered to foot the bills of the injured receiving treatment at the State Specialist Hospital.**

**W**EDNESDAY, April 9 is a day the residents of Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital, will never forget in a hurry, as the town witnessed its bloodiest armed robbery attack in recent years. A 12-man robbery gang stormed an old generation bank in a commando style and sacked the main market where the bank is located.

The bank, shops and buildings in the vicinity, including the palace of the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adeyemo Adejugbe, were riddled with bullets.

The State Specialist Hospital in the town brimmed with casualties who received gunshot wounds on various parts of their bodies from the rampaging robbers who successfully robbed the bank before three of them were later killed in a fire gun duel with the Police.

But respite has come from the Ekiti State Government, which has offered to bear the cost of the treatment of all the victims of the robbery, some of whom had expressed fears that they might not be able to pay the medical bills at the hospital.

Apparently shocked by the effect of the robbery, Governor Segun Oni visited the victims of the robbery at their homes and the hospital where they were receiving treatment and assured them that his administration would settle the medical bills their treatment might have incurred.

He was accompanied by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of Zone 8, comprising Ekiti, Kogi and

From Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado Ekiti

Kwara states, Mr Tunji Alapinni, who was on an official visit to the state and the State Commissioner of Police, Mr Yomi Onashile.

The governor, who commiserated with the victims, took time to visit them in their various wards, promising that his government would do everything possible to ensure that they get the best of medical treatment in line with the policies of the government to offer the best medical services to the people of the state.

"All we can do now is to give them very, very good care. The government is going to be responsible for their medical bills and I am happy to know that the hospital says that they have all that it requires to take very good care of them.

"They have the personnel, they have the specialists required and the drugs required and all we can do now is to wish them a speedy recovery," the governor said.

Commending the state police command for its prompt response to combat the bandits, Oni urged the people of the state not to fear for their lives and property. He said government was ready to collaborate with relevant security agencies to combat armed robbery and other violent crimes.

The governor later visited the scene of the robbery located directly opposite Ado-Ekiti Post Office and in Ilawe-Ekiti where

he sympathised with the family of a youth who was shot dead as he was returning from the farm when the Police were giving the robbers a hot chase after they had departed from Ado-Ekiti, fleeing with their loot.

Oni also visited the Ewi, Oba Adejugbe, whose family also suffered losses from the robbery as the supermarket owned by his wife, Mrs Bose Adejugbe, was also attacked by the bandits who stole about N500,000 and made away with recharge cards.

Praying against a re-occurrence of the incident, the governor noted that his visit was to demonstrate the concern of his administration over the unfortunate incident.

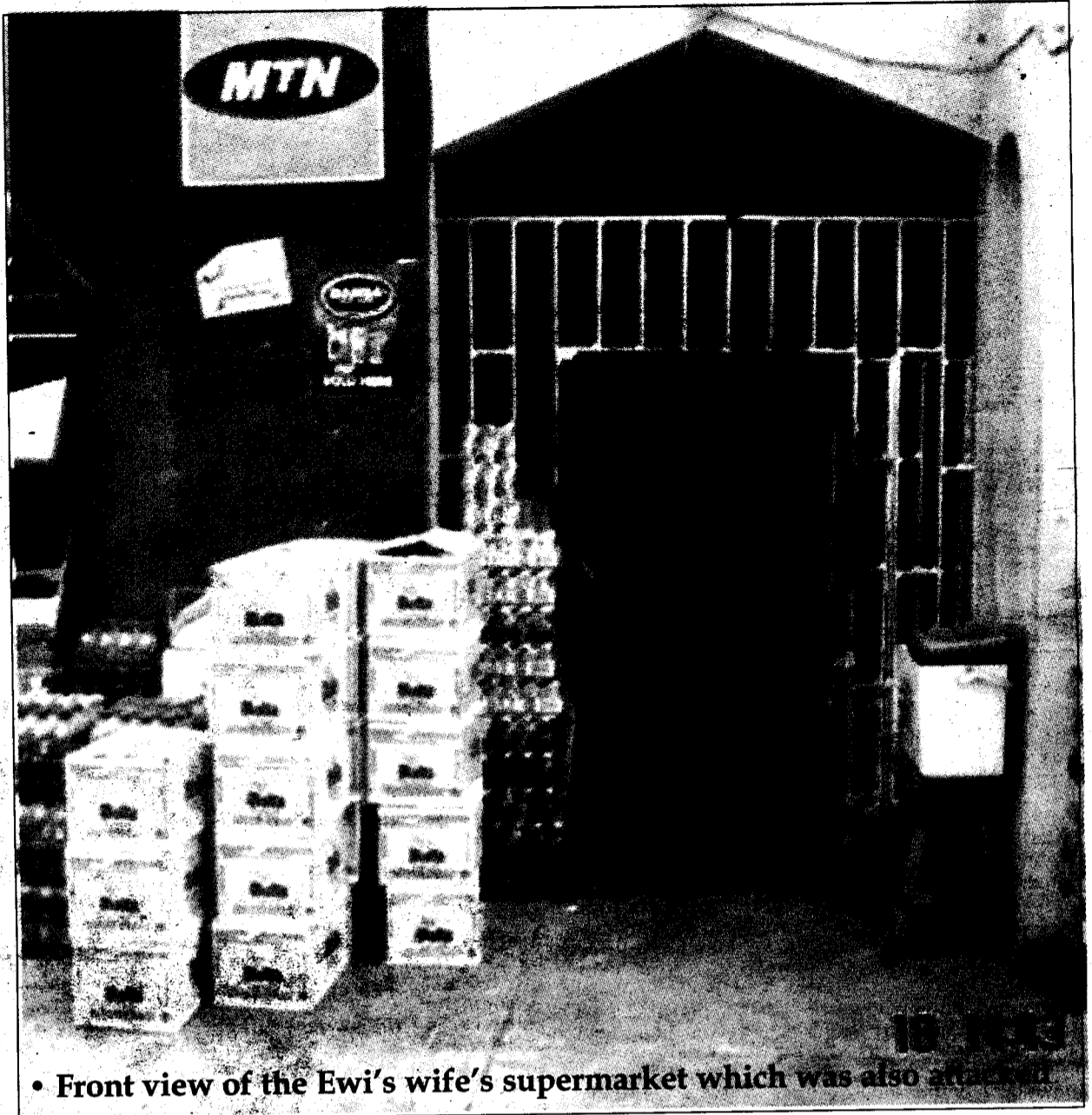
The Ewi acknowledged the efforts of the state government in the health sector, noting that the various health policies of the Oni-led administration had attracted quality and tested medical professionals to the state.

The royal father said: "If it were to be a year ago, the injured people would have been taken out of Ekiti State for treatment in Ife or Ibadan because we had only one specialist doctor a year ago, but today, there are 12."

Onashile revealed that another member of the robbery gang that terrorised the state capital that tragic Wednesday was killed while attempting to escape from the bush to where the hoodlums fled as none of the robbers was captured alive.

The Ekiti police chief explained that two members of the gang, who had escaped during a fierce gun battle with the

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The latest member of the gang shot dead had no weapons on him but charms all over his body, while foreign currencies like dollars, pounds sterling, deutschmark and four expensive cell phones were recovered from him.



• Front view of the Ewi's wife's supermarket which was also attacked

# Wednesday: after

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One of them, known as 'Eluku Champion', carried their loot inside a Ghana-Must-Go bag and attempted to disappear into the bush with the bag, holding a gun in his hand.

police, were attempting to leave the scene on a motorbike before they were shot by the police, leaving one of them dead. The other escaped with bullet wounds.

The body of the latest member of the gang killed brings to four the number of the bandits gunned down by the men of the state police command who also recovered weapons from the hoodlums.

He expressed optimism that other members of the gang would be apprehended in no distant time, urging members of the public to always oblige his command with useful information that would assist the Police to rid the state of crimes.

Meanwhile, one of the policemen detailed to track down the robbers has given a graphic account of the gun battle on Ilawe-Igbara-Odo Road where the hoodlums had fled shortly after carrying out their operation in Ado-Ekiti.

The policeman, a corporal, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, also urged both the federal and state governments to assist the Police with operational equipment, bullet-proof jackets and improved welfare package to motivate them to fight crime in the country.

His words: "The robbers were pursued from Ado to Ilawe and when we got to Irona junction in Ado, they snatched a Toyota Hilux van belonging to the Ondo State House of Assembly with the driver and a woman inside the vehicle, which carried electronics and which they completely evacuated.

"They got to a checkpoint which was not manned by any policeman and they dismantled it after which they were driving the snatched Hilux van on a top speed, but the vehicle later came to an abrupt stop because it was fitted with a security device.

"The robbers went ahead to hijack a Mazda 323 loaded with banana and they dumped the women inside the car and continued

fleeing, after which they abandoned the car and snatched another Honda Accord car at the junction of Ilawe, Igbara-Odo and Igbara-Oke but it was in the process of snatching the Honda Accord that we closed in on them.

"They wanted to escape but we shot one of the tyres of the car to demobilise them. A white bus was also in their convoy, which they used to carry their arms and ammunition. One of them, known as 'Eluku Champion', carried their loot inside a Ghana-Must-Go bag and attempted to disappear into the bush with the bag, holding a gun in his hand.

"There was an exchange of a heavy gunfire and we started shelling the bush where they were hiding with the assistance of the men of the O'odua Peoples Congress (OPC) and the Igbara-Odo people, but one of us, ASP Aloma, was shot in the leg at Ilawe.

"When they saw a large number of policemen, they had no option than to run inside the bush. In all the towns and villages we passed through, they started shouting 'ole! ole!' (Thief! Thief!) and they cooperated with us to track them down. In fact, they really assisted us.

"The government should give us life-jackets, bullet-proof vests and equip us the more, and they should also increase our salaries and give us more insurance cover to motivate us to combat these men of the underworld".

Our source also revealed that the latest member of the gang shot dead had no weapons on him but charms all over his body, while foreign currencies like dollars, pounds sterling, deutschmark and four expensive cell phones were recovered from him.

He also urged banks to improve security at their premises to prevent a future occurrence, noting that security is a collective effort which should not be left in the hands of the police alone.