

Two policemen, woman killed in Ekiti bank robbery

HELL was let loose on Thursday in Igede-Ekiti, the headquarters of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State where dare-devil armed robbers attacked a first generation bank killing two policemen in the process.

An old woman, who had come to transact business in the town's main market was also gunned down by the bandits who were said to have made away with an undisclosed amount of money in the daylight robbery operation.

Another policeman was lucky not to have been killed by the hoodlums who opened fire on a police patrol vehicle parked some metres away from the bank premises.

Economic and social activities which were at their peak some minutes after midday when the robbery incident took place were paralyzed as the heavy shooting from the guns of the robbers scared away people from Igede main market.

Traffic was also temporarily paralyzed by the bravado of the robbers as vehicles coming into or going out of the state were diverted to other routes to prevent commuters from being hit by stray bullets.

Eyewitnesses told *The Nation* in Igede-Ekiti that the robbers stormed the town from the Ado-Ekiti end in a Toyota Corolla saloon car bearing a Federal Gov-

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Ado-Ekiti

ernment number plate and escaped through the Awo-Ekiti end after the operation.

A visit, yesterday, to the premises of the bank, located on Ado-Aramoko-Ilesa highway in the heart of the town showed that the bank was under lock and key and being guarded by policemen under the watch of the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Mr. A.S. Anjorin.

Controlled demolition of Bank of Industry building takes place Sunday - Fashola

LAGOS State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) yesterday disclosed that at 'O-hour' tomorrow morning, a series of choreographed explosions will occur that will implode the Bank of Industry (BOI) building and bring down the structure.

Governor Fashola, who made this known in a broadcast to the people of the state added that evacuation drills have already been carried out with local residents, fire service, ambulance service and security agencies in the preceding weeks to simulate the rallying points where shelter and other logistic support will be provided until it is safe for residents to return to their respective properties.

The main door of the bank which is made of glass was shattered by the shots fired by the robbers and the outer iron door was firmly locked with no worker in sight at the time of the visit.

The policemen on guard refused to speak on the incident but referred reporters to the state Police Command headquarters.

An eyewitness, Sunday Ariogun, who works as a guard at the bank told reporters that the operation lasted about 30 minutes with the

robbers shooting their way into the bank from Ilawe Road junction in the town.

He explained that the bandits forced their way into the bank premises when transactions were in full swing as they manhandled, beat and injured many of the innocent bank staff and customers and collected cash and handsets from their victims.

Many youth corpsers serving in the town who had gone to the bank to either save or withdraw money also fell victims to the hoodlums.

He reiterated that the government has undertaken painstaking planning for the controlled demolition operation and has been driven by the need to ensure maximum safety, security and protection of life and property.

He added that preparatory to the controlled demolition exercise, all properties within a radius of 15,500 square metres from the target area (BOI building) have been acquired in the public interest.

In addition, Governor Fashola said the entire area between inner Marina, Martins Street, Breadfruit Street, Nnamdi Azikiwe Street and Custom Street to Marina has been prepared for evacuation from 0600 hours on the day of the exercise.

Adequate insurance cover, he

also said, has been taken by the firm handling the controlled demolition. "The principal contractor on behalf of the team, has taken out a US \$150 million public liability insurance in addition to an all-risk insurance as a risk contingent. There is also a workman compensation scheme for all operational staff during the exercise," he said.

Governor Fashola added that the state has also published and distributed notices of information on the preparations for the demolition works in five Nigerian languages including information on the eight roads on Lagos Island that will be closed to the public during the exercise.

He revealed that while being mindful of the property rights in the immediate vicinity of the BOI