

Four killed as robbers take over Niger

ASSASSINS and armed robbers were on the rampage in Minna, Niger State capital on Thursday night killing two people, including a mobile police officer and an Abuja-based businessman.

They also carted away a jeep. The incident has led the Police and the state government to place a ban on Okada Motorcycle movement from 7:00 pm and 6:00 am in the state capital.

The armed hoodlums first struck at 123 Quarters of the state capital when they trailed a man (name withheld) to his house and at gun point dispossessed him of his Jeep car and forcefully drove him with another person in his car to a quiet place close to the High Court premises.

In an attempt to further dispossess their captives of the handsets and other valuables, a shouting match ensued which attracted a Mobile Police Sergeant attached to the High Court complex. On sighting the Police man, the robbers pushed down their captives and rained bullets on the officer, whose name was giving as Danjuma Ibrahim.

■Jide **ORINTUNSIN**,
Minna

The officer died before help could come. Less than an hour to the killing of the Police man and the carting away of the jeep, another three-man gang suspected to be hired assassins snuffed out life from an Abuja based business man, whose name was simply given as Shehu at about 8:30 pm along Bay Clinic Road, to

have gone to see a friend. There were conflicting reports about the assassins, as the state government in a statement signed by the Secretary to the State government, Dr. Muhammed Yahaya said that the victim identified as an indigene of Kogi State was killed by two people on 'Okada' motorcycle.

But an eye witness account told THE NATION that the

assassins who came in an old Honda car blocked the car of the deceased with registration number BE354 BWR shortly after he left his female friend's shop. The assassins had ordered him to come down from his car. Bvehiclecar and fired shots at the deceased analso fired some shots to the air to scare people before escaping with their car.

FG refutes allegation of fake co

THE Federal Ministry of Youths Development has debunked allegations that a youth center contract was awarded to a fake local government in Oyo State. Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi who is in charge of the ministry described the story as baseless, insisting that the ministry has not awarded any contract for any project whatsoever in Oyo State.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the minister, Mr. Goddy Enwerem said as such, no public fund was paid to any contractor in the state.

According to him, the to-

■Gbenga **OMOKHUNU**,
Abuja.

tal amount voted for the construction of eight prototype youth centers across the six geo-political zones is N2,761, 914,090 out of which the sum of N1, 575,000,00 was released adding that six of the youth centers are at advanced stage of completion while the other two were held up due to certain constraints.

The statement reads: "What happened at the House of Representatives hearing under Hon. Depo Oyedokun was that the name Iresaapa in Oyo State appeared as one of the lo-

cations for the eight youth centers to be constructed by the Federal Government under the 2008 Budget. The committee sought to know where the town was located and the minister said that was how the National Assembly passed the budget.

"Pressed further, the minister said it was not part of the submission of his ministry and that it was not inserted into the amended appropriation act just passed by the National Assembly.

"The Minister explained that because the amended budget came late, his ministry was constructing six of the youth centers lo-