

Bandits kill two policemen

TWO police escorts were shot dead and an undisclosed sum of money carted away after bandits attacked a pools agent en route to Warri.

The incident which left the pools agent severely wounded occurred along the Ozoro-Ughelli Road, Isoko North L.G.A, last weekend.

The *Nation* learnt the victims ran into a hail of gunfire at a lonely spot on the road after the victims ran into an ambush allegedly laid by the robbers.

It was learnt that the pools agent (name withheld) frequently employs the services of armed guards on his weekly trips.

The suspects, our source, revealed may have had knowledge of the strength of the security provided by the pools agent and decided to spring a surprise attack.

Delta State Police image maker, ASP Charles Muka confirmed the incident.

In a related development, three persons are being questioned by the Police following an attack by dare-devil robbers on a social club gathered for their end-of-year meeting.

The *Nation* gathered that the five-man gang stormed the venue of the meeting where the yearly contributions were being shared.

The source further revealed whilst the masked bandits were inside the house, they snatched the money being shared at gunpoint, but the members summoned courage and put resistance and apprehended a member of the gang.

To the astonishment of all, they discovered that the culprit was the son of their chairman who had earlier gotten a wind of the activities of the social club.

When contacted, Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Owa-Oyibu, Mr. Stephen Musa confirmed the incident, assuring that the police were on the trail of other members of the gang still at large.

■ Okungbowa AIWERIE, Asaba & Bodé DUROJAIYE, Oyo

Violent crime has been on the increase in Delta State lately. It will be recalled that recently two communities of Ibusa and Okpanam in Oshimili North L.G.A raised alarm over the activities of hoodlums who after robbing motorists along the busy Asaba-Benin Expressway sought refuge in their farms, threatening the lives of peasant farmers.

This ugly development, according to the farmers have prevented them from going to their farms.

On the 12th of December at about 1130am, armed robbers laid siege on the ever busy Warri-Port-Harcourt Expressway dispossessing motorists and passengers of money and valuables. A reporter with a national daily who was a victim narrated that hapless passengers were subjected to the indignity of crawling on all fours in the bushes for over one hour while the robbery lasted.

Despite repeated assurances by the Oyo State Government, that adequate security measures are being put in place to check crime waves, the orgy of robberies across the state seem to be increasing in propensity.

The latest in the series was the 3-

• Teenage gang leader killed in Sagamu

man robbery gang that unleashed terror few days ago at Adikuta area of Oyo town.

The robbers, who walked down to the filling station around 945 pm, ordered the two petrol attendants on duty to surrender all the money on them at gun point.

After collecting all the money, sources hinted the *Nation* that the robbers also took away the mobile phones of the petrol attendants.

The manager of the filling station, Mr. Safari Adigun, was also not left out, as he was pushed into his office, where all the money on him, including his mobile phone, were carted away.

During the operation, which sources estimated 20 minutes, few unsuspecting motorists who came to fuel their vehicles could not be attended to by the petrol attendants.

Meanwhile, hell was let loose yesterday in Sagamu, Ogun state. Residents ran helter-skelter for safety when a 20-man armed robbery gang, fair complexioned led by teenage girl, invaded the Makun - Sagamu branch of a first generation bank shooting their way into the banking hall and

carted away several millions of naira from the bank's vault.

Handsets, bags and other valuables were also snatched from customers and passers-by alike.

Many of the bank's staff and customers who were in the premises for the day's business when the robbers struck from around 9:15am, were held in terror for hours as the dare-devil armed gang repeatedly gave stern order to the effect that all should cooperate with them lest massive shedding of blood ensues within and outside the banking hall.

An eyewitness, in a telephone interview, told The *Nation* that all complied and that while some of the robbers made for the bank's vault where they carted away large sums of money conveyed in three sacks, others kept vigil at Akarigbo street and the adjoining ones leading to the bank to frighten anybody or security operatives who might want to repulse them.

Residents and passers-by in Makun scampered to safety wherever they could find it as the robbers held on menacingly, shooting sporadically to scare people away.

Lagos, China sign MOU on Friendship city, Industrial Park

IN FURTHERANCE of its campaign to make Lagos a destination for international investors, the Lagos State Government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable the Chinese Government build a city and an industrial park in the state.

The investment to be christened China City and Industrial Park will involve waste management, education, housing, infrastructure de-

velopment and other areas that might interest the Chinese business community.

At a brief signing ceremony which took place at the Lagos House, Alausalkjeja, the State Commissioner for Town Planning and Urban Development, Town Planner Francisco Abosede, who stood in for the State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), told the Chinese business delegation from Chongqing that with the global

economic meltdown, Nigeria remained the best economic climate for investment in the world today.

While Town Planner Abosede and his counterpart in the Environment Ministry, Dr. Muiz Banire signed on behalf of the Lagos State Government, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Parliament, Mr. Liu Longzhu and the Consul General of the Chinese Embassy in Lagos, Mr. Guo Kun, signed on behalf of the Chinese Government.