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Robbers kill policeman in Kwara State



Adekunle Jimoh, The Nation January 5th, 2009

A mobile policeman was at the weekend killed by robbers at Proposed Mega Party Unsettles PDP Afon junction, on Ilorin-Ajese-Ipo road in Kwara State.

The command's spokesman, Mr. Tunde Mohammed (DSP), who confirmed the incident yesterday, said the hoodlums also went away with one AK-47 rifle snatched from the deceased. Corporal Tuwan Simon of 15 PMF.

According to him, the late policeman and his colleagues were on stop-and-search duty at the Afon/Ganmo Junction checkpoint when the incident occurred. He gave the number of the rifle as No.4798.

The robbers, numbering about 20, Muhammed said, arrived at the junction in three vehicles - a Toyota Land Cruiser, a black Sports car and another vehicle whose make could not be ascertained due to the pandemonium.

It was when the policemen were searching one of the vehicles that the hoodlums opened fire from behind during which one of the policemen was killed.

Mohammed said his colleagues pursued the fleeing robbers who took a detour towards Asa-dam area of the city.

According to him, when the robbers realised the police had the upper hand, some of them fled into the bush, leaving behind the Land Cruiser. The others escaped in two cars.

While Mohammed was briefing reporters, it was announced that the three cars were snatched in Auchi, Edo State on Saturday.

One of the victims and owner of the Land Cruiser, whose name was given as Raymond Elekwechi, told detectives that the robbers accosted them at Auchi and ran away with the cars.

Elekwechi claimed that he was on his way back to Kaduna when the incident occurred. Items found in the vehicle included foodstuff, which he were meant for the twins' dedication this week. Apart from the food items, the police also recovered N75,060 and one AK47 Magazine with five live ammunition from the car.

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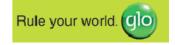
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Mohammed said the killing of the policeman had only reinforced the recent plea by the command's leadership for the provision of bulletproof vests for policemen.

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