

Confusion as cocoa merchant is killed in Akure

•Police, robbers in gun duel

From Damisi Ojo, Akure

PANDEMONIUM broke out on Wednesday night in Akure, the Ondo State capital, when a man in his early '40s was reportedly murdered by people suspected to be assassins.

The man identified as Dayo Ogunmolasuyi, aka Eco 2000, a cocoa merchant based in Owo was said to have collected a substantial amount of money from a commercial bank in Akure before he was killed.

Ogunmolasuyi, who rode in his new Toyota Camry with registration number (Ondo) AJ 992 WWW, was said to have been shot at a close range at the first

gate in Ijapo Housing Estate by six men on motorcycles.

An eye witness said immediately they intercepted him, the hoodlums rained bullets on his chests, forcing the policemen around to scamper for safety.

He said the killers immediately escaped through Fiwasaye Road.

It was learnt that the money the deceased collected from the bank was intact in the booth of his car while the vehicle was parked

within the premises of Ijapo Police Station.

One of the late Ogunmolasuyi's brothers, Olanrewaju, rained curses on the suspected murderers. He said the deceased was an easy-going man, who could not hurt a fly.

Also yesterday, another gang of hoodlums, numbering four and said to be armed with sophisticated weapons, engaged the police in a shoot-out in a bid to rob a High Court judge.

Sources hinted that the police

orderly attached to the judge, named Corporal Samson, was robbed of his service pistol. He is being detained at the A Division Police Station in Akure.

Besides, a governorship candidate in the April 14, 2007 election also lost an undisclosed amount of cash to the robbers.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Magaji Nassarawa, confirmed both incidents. He assured the people that the criminals would be apprehended.

He said his men were on the alert to bring the hoodlums to justice, urging residents to go about their lawful duties.