

CITY BEATS

Suspected robbers kill police corporal

By Basirat Braimah

SUSPECTED armed robbers yesterday shot dead police Corporal Babatunde Odumosu (a.k.a Rambo) attached to Diamond Bank in Satellite Town, on Old Ojo Road, Lagos.

Eyewitnesses said he was killed in a gun battle with the hoodlums, but the police said he was walking by when he was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle.

The Nation learnt that it was the third time in three weeks that robbers would be terrorising the area. Sources said they usually operated on Thursdays.

The late Odumosu, it was gathered, was posted to the bank last Sunday.

A security man, who did not give his name, said the hoodlums were operating at Alakija Junction before the late Odumosu and three others attached to the bank went to the scene.

"When they got to the junction, the police officers and the robbers shot at each other before the bullet hit Rambo. He

couldn't survive. His body was taken to Navy Town Mortuary by officers attached to Satellite Police Station," he said.

A driver, simply called Asiwaju, said he was on the queue at a filling station when he saw five motorcycles approaching the expressway.

The hoodlums, he said were 10, adding that they tied handkerchiefs on their mouths.

"I saw everything that happened. In fact, two police officers would have died if not for a tanker that was parked on the other side of the road; the bullet almost hit another police officer. The guy who I presume is their leader put a gun on his thigh and shot continuously targeting another police officer after he killed one of them. The police officer's bullet hit his motorcycle but he hijacked a motorcycle from a motorcyclist and zoomed off. It was like a movie scene. I couldn't come out

from my bus."

A trader, Desmond Adamo, who sells building materials, said on March 10 and 17, a food vendor simply called Iya Ibeji and a yet-to-be identified man were killed by robbers.

"Iya Ibeji sells beside the bank. Her death was painful. She was serving a customer before she was hit by a stray bullet. She died immediately. Today (yesterday) was her *fi-dau* prayer in Ibadan. The bullet slit a man's throat before it hit her on the side. Her children heard the news from their school that day. The other man was a member of The Lord's Chosen Church because he wore their uniform. It is painful.

"I remember vividly that the police patrolled around Alakija junction for a while but the robbers never showed up but since they stopped coming to the area, they (robbers) come regularly," Adamo said.

Another trader, Jamiu Alap-
atira, said the robbers usually

finished their operations at Alakija, Danata and Finniger Bus-Stops, killing one or two persons.

"It is very unfortunate. Policemen have made several attempts to kill these people during operations but they are charmed. They once shot at them but they weren't injured instead they stood on their motorbikes and shot at anyone passing. There was a day one of them dragged a woman from a commercial bus, shot her on the leg and collected her money. It was later we heard the woman was coming from a bank. We need security in this area."

Police spokesperson, Dola-
po Badmos, a Superintendent (SP), said Odumosu's body has been deposited in a mortuary.

In another text message to our reporter, Badmos said: "No attempted robbery there today (yesterday). Only a policeman walking by on the road was shot dead by two men on motorbike."