



'Gun recovered owned by my dead colleague'

■ Ebele BONIFACE ■

A robbery suspect, Ayoola Rokib, 22, has claimed that a locally made gun recovered by the police belonged to a member of his three-man gang identified as Saheed.

Rokib said Saheed was shot dead during an exchange of gunfire with police, while another member of the gang, Toheeb, escaped.

According to police source, the gang specialized in "robbing people who are going to withdraw or deposit money in banks, as well as people who are either going to buy or sell goods in the market with huge sum of money during the morning or evening rush hours."

The source further revealed that one of the robbery suspects lost his life, one escaped with bullet wounds, while Ayoola was arrested with bullet wounds.

Police disclosed that two live cartridges with one locally made pistol were recovered from the gang, while efforts are being intensified to get the fleeing suspect, Toheeb.

In his confession, Ayoola said: "I am from Oyo State. I do commercial

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motorcycle riding (okada) in Lagos. Sometime last month, I was working in Surulere, Lagos, when two persons I used to know in my street, Saheed, 23, and Toheeb asked me to carry them.

"As we got to Bode Thomas area of Surulere, I saw them trying to collect phones from some people, I became afraid because I did not know that they were armed robbers. When I wanted to escape Saheed warned me and threatened to shoot me dead.

He added: "As I was thinking of the next step to take, some of their victims

started shouting "ole buruku armed robber, robber, robber." I thought that the shouting would scare Saheed who was holding the gun and Toheeb who was busy collecting phones and money from people, they instead continued to rob. Saheed fired the first shot which made police to return fire and Saheed was killed.

"During the exchange of gunfire, one of the bullets wounded me on the chest, while Toheeb escaped with bullet wounds. If I am released I will not ride commercial motorcycle in Lagos again. It is a big risk because you may not know your passengers very well before carrying them."