

Robbers lay siege to another bank in Lagos

Olalekan Adetayo

ABOUT 15 armed robbery suspects, on Thursday, stormed the Epe branch of a first generation bank (name withheld) and broke into the banking hall.

The heavily armed men reportedly arrived at the bank, located near the sea, at about 1.45am through the creek with housebreaking implements.

Our correspondent learnt that as soon as the suspects arrived at the bank premises, they started shooting indiscriminately to ward off any challenge.

They were reported to have broken into the banking hall through the front door.

The Epe divisional police officer, who heard the gunshots, led his men from the anti-robbery section towards the direction of the fire until they traced the sound to the bank.

They later engaged the hoodlums in a gun battle for over three hours after which they (the suspects) escaped through the same waterway by which they came.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Thursday.

Ojajuni said the hoodlums were on the verge of breaking into the bank's strong room when the police arrived at the scene.

He said one giant chisel, 107 expended and one live

7.62mm calibre ammunition were recovered at the scene.

The police spokesman said the bank manager, after inspecting the premises with the police later in the day, confirmed that the robbers did not succeed in their operation.

He said the State Criminal Investigations Department, Panti, St., Yaba, has taken over

the investigation into the case.

The Thursday's foiled bank robbery came barely four days after about 35 robbery suspects stormed the Ago Palace, Isolo branch of another bank on Sunday.

Although they did not succeed in carting away cash from the bank, the hoodlums killed a security guard attached to the bank.

Commercial motorcyclists on the rampage

Olalekan Adetayo

COMMERCIAL motorcyclists went on the rampage in Lagos on Thursday in protest against the killing of their colleague by a lorry driver.

Our correspondent learnt that trouble started when a driver of a lorry marked XD 111 SKJ crushed the motorcyclist identified as Ahmed Akinpelu, at Adura bus stop on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway. Akinpelu reportedly died on the spot.

The driver, Sulaiman Agaji, who ran away from the scene for fear of being lynched by the irate mob, later reported himself at the nearest police station.

But the cyclists, who could not lay their hands on the driver at that time, quickly mobilised and took to the street.

Leaving the remains of

their colleague on the highway, the protesting cyclists blocked the two sides of the expressway leading to President Olusegun Obasanjo's Ota home and hindered free flow of traffic.

Eyewitnesses said while the confusion lasted, the protesters smashed wind screens of vehicles in sight, especially those of lorries.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

Ojajuni said regular and riot policemen drafted to the scene had restored normalcy to the area.

He said the corpse of the motorcyclist has been deposited at a mortuary.

An unconfirmed report said three people were feared killed and several others injured during the pandemonium.