

Police foil bank robbery in Warri

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- WARRI

A POLICE, on Tuesday in Warri, Delta State, killed an armed robber during a foiled bank robbery that also left a cop badly injured.

The crossfire saw other armed robbers escaping with various degrees of gunshot wounds.

The robbery operation took place at about 1.00 p.m at a first-generation bank, opposite Main Market, Warri.

Eyewitnesses said the robbers, numbering five, had stormed the bank with sophisticated weapons and fired at the mobile policeman who was on guard at the bank's premises.

It was further gathered that immediately the robbers pumped pellets at the mobile policeman, he slumped.

The bandits were said to have run towards him to take his rifle, thinking that he was dead, only for the police officer to rise up and fired at the robbers, leaving one dead and others seriously injured.

Civilians who were around the area were said to have

given the fleeing robbers a hot chase, but to no avail.

However, the wounded policeman was rushed to the hospital for urgent medical attention.

Area Commander, South, ACP Hussaini Rabi, who confirmed the incident,

commended the policeman for his rare bravery and courage.

He vowed to track down the fleeing robbers, stressing that the police had spread their dragnet to further comb and fortify the area, so that it would be free of any

form of criminality.

Rabi, who expressed delight over the inability of the robbers to gain entrance to the bank, said signal had been sent out and strategies planned on how to nip the incessant bank robberies in the bud.

Benin palace condemns arms proliferation

BANJI ALUKO - BENIN CITY

B THE Palace of the Oba of Benin has condemned what it described as proliferation of arms and ammunition in some communities in the Benin Kingdom, regretting that youths in some communities had turned their areas into war zones over land matters.

It will be recalled that last week, at least four persons were reportedly killed while houses and cars were set ablaze in Okhoromi community in Oredo Local Government Council of Edo State during clashes over land ownership.

The **Obasogie** of the Benin Kingdom, Chief Eduwu Ekhat, who also

is the chairman of the State Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution, hinted that the **Oba** of Benin, **Oba Erediauwa**, had summoned the traditional heads and elders of the affected communities for a meeting, emphasising the need for the youths of the kingdom to embrace other peaceful means of conflict resolution.

He lamented that "we are now witnessing a very sad and total liquidation of our age-long virtue of oneness which has been the hallmark of our collective responsibility and peaceful co-existence in the kingdom and the state. It is, therefore, sad to note that in recent times, that there have been several reported incidents of violent reaction and serious

acts of vandalism which ordinarily could have been resolved amicably.

The statement further frowned that members of the community development associations who were supposed to ensure peace in the communities, "turned around to become foot soldiers and instruments of destabilisation, disrupting the maximum utilisation of available resources of the people.

"We must place strong emphasis on the necessity to maximise a high degree of co-operation, accommodation and tolerance at all times and to engage in genuine dialogue as a true way of resolving issues," Chief Ekhat said.