

The three armed robbers killed along Oyo-Alaaka Road and the items recovered from them. Inset: The other robbery suspect killed along Lagos-Ibadan expressway. PHOTOS: OLUWATOYIN MALIK

# 4 daredevil robbers shot dead in Ibadan

By OLUWATOYIN MALIK

THREE robbers who thought they had had another successful operation in Ibadan, Oyo State, on Thursday evening met their Waterloo along Oyo-Iseyin at about 2.00 a.m., on Friday.

A few hours after the robbery, they were felled by men of the state police command, supported by a team of a popular hunter, Alhaji Ali Kwara, with the Inspector General of Police's Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) attached to him, during an exchange of gunfire.

The security operatives did not suffer any casualty despite the fact that the robbery suspects fired at their vehicle as evidenced by the bullet holes on the two back doors.

Items stolen by the robbers from their victims at Akobo

area of Ibadan were recovered from them.

In a related development, men of the Federal Highway Patrol along Lagos-Ibadan expressway killed a suspected robber while others escaped at about 3.00 a.m. on Friday when they had an encounter with them at Seko area.

The Oyo State Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Indabawa, disclosed this on Friday at a press briefing at the police headquarters in Eleyele.

Indabawa said the three robbers had invaded the home of their victim, one Engineer Ademola Adeniran, making away with his Honda Accord car with registration number: TD 206 AAA, his phones, wedding rings, wrist watch, cash and other valuables.

After the incident was reported at Akobo police sta-

tion, Indabawa said police-men set out on the suspects' trail.

According to him, the men were supported by Ali Kwara, of Fulani descent, whose team chased after the robbers after their activities were communicated to them.

He said further that when the robbers noticed that they were being followed, they diverted to Alaaka Road in Oyo and started shooting from the car.

The police and the Ali Kwara team responded, resulting in the armed robbers sustaining injuries.

When the vehicle was searched, the operatives found documents, including those of the vehicle, which indicated that it was the same vehicle taken away from Engineer Adeniran a few hours earlier.

Other items recovered from

the car include an AK 47 rifle, a locally-made double barrel gun, a locally-made single barrel gun, 101 rounds of live ammunition, nine live cartridges, an expended cartridge, eight assorted mobile phones, a Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 and N17,170 cash.

Their victim, Adeniran, a staff of a tertiary institution in Ibadan, had told Saturday Tribune that he drove into his home at Akobo area on Thursday, January 16, at about 8.05 p.m., unknown to him that the robbers were hiding in an uncompleted building beside his house.

The fourth suspect was killed along Lagos-Ibadan expressway when he and his other gang members were trying to avoid a police stop-and-search mounted by the Federal Highway Patrol. It was learnt that the federal highway patrol received information from a commuter that armed robbers had operated at a point close to Ogere in Ogun state and were heading towards Ibadan.

This made them to start conducting a stop-and-search on vehicles passing. The armed robbers who were approaching the search point in a green Toyota Camry with registration number ST 57 AAA were said to have started firing immediately they sighted the police. Undaunted, the policemen engage them in a shootout, resulting in the death of one of them while three others escaped.

Recovered from the vehicle were two cut-to-size locally-made single barrel guns, 12 live cartridges, five mobile phones, one cutlass, one knife, a purse with N2,000, one Sony camera and a female bag.

## Loot: Abacha's son must face trial —Supreme Court

THE Supreme Court on Friday ordered Mohammed, son of the late military head of state, General Sani Abacha, to return to the high court to face his trial.

Mohammed has approached the apex court seeking to overturn the decision of the Court of Appeal which mandated the Federal Government to recover alleged funds looted by the late head of state.

The Federal Government had slammed a 123-count charge bordering on conspiracy, receiving of stolen funds, among others, on Mohammed before an Abuja high court.

Before taking his plea at

the trial court, Mohammed approached the Court of Appeal contesting the legality of his trial on the grounds that he had complied with the provisions of Forfeiture of Assets (Certain Persons) Decree No. 53 of 1999.

He had told the court through his counsel, Joseph Daudu (SAN), that insofar as he complied with the provisions of the said decree, no criminal or civil suit could be instituted against him.

But in its judgment, the appellate court resolved the appeal in favour of the Federal Government, saying that there was nothing in the provision of the de-

creed which inhibits the high court from exercising its judicial power to try Abacha.

Justice Amina Augie, who read the lead judgment of the court, also held that the decree did not resolve any criminal issues sought to be determined in the high court of Abuja.

The court held further that the said Decree No.53 did not confer any immunity on Mohammed Abacha.

Delivering judgement in the appeal at the apex court, Justice Oluwakayode Ariwoola held that Mohammed should return to the trial court to take his plea and possibly plead a no-case submission, if he so wishes.