

Auxiliary escapes as police arrest 78 suspects, recover N3.45m cash, arms, ammunition during raid

Residents panic as gunshots rented air

My life under threat — Auxiliary

From Soji Ajibola and
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OYO State Commissioner of Police, Adebowale Williams, on Tuesday disclosed that a raid was carried out at Diamond Hotel, Alakia-Isebo, Ibadan, which allegedly belongs to the former Chairman, Oyo State Park Management System Disciplinary Committee, Mukaila Lamidi a.k.a Auxiliary.

The Commissioner of Police said at a media briefing that the Command got hinted on a plan by the loyalists of the embattled former PMS boss to disrupt the existing peace in the state.

The Police, according to him, acted on the information which led to the arrest of 78 suspects and recovery of arms and ammunitions.

He said, "The Oyo State Police Command in its proactive nature while acting on intelligence driven surveillance were able to foil an attempt at creating widespread car-

nage and civil disturbance in the State by some members of the Park Management System (PMS) led by one Alhaji Mukaila Lamidi AKA Auxiliary, sequel to the immediate dissolution of the Disciplinary Committee of the Park Management System of the State.

"Sequel to the above, on Tuesday 30/05/2023 in a strategic intelligence coordinated raid around his location at Diamond Hotel, Alakia-Isebo, under Egbeda LGA, 78 suspected hoodlums who had perfected plans to unleash mayhem at the early hours of yesterday at major parts of the metropolis were arrested in possession of sophisticated firearms, 724 cartridges assorted charms, 33 mobile phones, and a cash sum of about three million, four hundred and fifty thousand naira only (N3,450,000).

"In addition, during the raid, sophisticated firearms were recovered inside the hotel rooms and in the trunk compartment of parked vehicles within the hotel.

"Worthy of note is that, though the PMS chieftain was able to escape with some of his boys during the gun duel with the police, a member of the group was neutralised in a gun duel with the police."

"Recall that the same group was alleged to be responsible for the attack on 14 members of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) along Agodi axis under Ibadan North-East LGA en route the venue of Monday's inauguration ceremony.

"Furthermore, in line with Standard Operational Procedure, all recovered items were properly documented, packaged and recorded for onward forensic analysis and for evidence purposes in accordance with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 and all other relevant laws."

However, Alhaji Mukaila Lamidi has raised the alarm over threat to his life, alleging that gunmen invaded his hotel located around Alakia,

Ibadan, killing five of his supporters.

Describing the invasion of the facility around 12:05am as shocking, he said the gunmen stormed the hotel while they were celebrating the swearing-in ceremony of Governor Seyi Makinde during a party.

According to Lamidi, no fewer than 53 vehicles were vandalised during the attack, which lasted for three hours and about N32 million, being state government funds realised from the sales of tickets to commercial motorists and cyclists were carted away.

Lamidi, while putting a call to *Nigerian Tribune* to narrate his ordeals, he stated: "The dastardly incident caused panic around Alakia, where my Diamond Hotel is located as gunshots rented the air for almost three hours. I don't know what I have done to warrant this kind of violence.

Lamidi explained further that "we were in the governor's residence in Ikolaba after his inauguration for

second term in office at Liberty Stadium, to register our displeasure over some issues. The governor called me inside and we discussed, assuring me that he would resolve the issue after his trip to Abuja.

"We left the place for the party we organised for the second term of Governor Seyi Makinde at my hotel. We were in the thick of the party around 12:05 am when some gunmen in about 13 vans suddenly invaded my hotel, shooting sporadically at us.

"In the process, five of my boys were killed, while many of them were injured. The gunmen went away with the corpses of my people. They also whisked away those injured. All the rooms in the hotel were riddled with bullets. It was a terrible incident. One innocent boy sleeping in his room, located in the opposite building to my hotel was hit by stray bullet.

"I don't know what I have done to deserve this deadly attack. This is terrible. I want

to call on Governor Seyi Makinde and the Commissioner of Police to investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to book.

Lamidi was relieved of his position shortly after the inauguration ceremony of Governor Seyi Makinde on Monday.

This development, however, did not go down well with his supporters, who, in turn, vented their anger on the residents and passersby at Alakia-Isebo in Egbeda local government area where his office and hotel are located.

The thugs who brandished dangerous weapons threatened to make the state ungovernable if their boss was not reinstated.

One of the residents of the area who preferred anonymity said they were forced awake with sporadic gunshots.

He stated that even though this was not the first time they had experienced such, that of yesterday night was different.