

Robbers attack 'bullion van,' kill Ogun govt accountant, cart away cash

Cross River accountant shot, bag of money stolen

Olayinka Olukoya |
Abeokuta

ROBBERS on Wednesday killed the Director of Finance attached to Ogun State Governor's Office, Mr Taiwo Oyekanmi, while on official duty.

The deceased was said to have left a commercial bank located around Omidia-Ibara axis of Abeokuta, the state capital, where he had gone to pick up some undisclosed amount of money on behalf of the state government.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the robbers blocked the homemade bullion van in which the deceased and the driver were travelling in on the Kuto flyover, shot at Oyekanmi, broke the door of the van with a sledge hammer and went away with the money.

The gunmen, said to be covered in hood, reportedly carted away the money without any form of resistance from any quarters.

Oyekanmi was reported to have been rushed to the General Hospital, Ijaye, for med-

ical attention, but lost the battle for survival.

It was gathered that the Secretary to the Ogun State Government, Tokunbo Talabi, paid a condolence visit to the deceased's family.

When contacted, the state Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alamu, confirmed the incident.

He said the police escort attached to the deceased was not on duty, having taken permission to be absent from duty.

Alamu said: "This afternoon [Wednesday], the accountant, the director of finance with driver and one other person left for a bank to make some withdrawal; they went with a homemade bullion van.

"They were supposed to have a police escort, but for certain reasons, the person was permitted to travel to attend to some issues, so he was not part of the movement today.

"According to the story, after making the withdrawal, and on their way back to the office, they were accosted.

"A vehicle blocked them

on top of the bridge, five occupants of the vehicle came down, shot at the director and from their vehicle, brought out a sledge hammer to force the receptacle where the money was kept open and they left with the money. "As of that time, there was no information as the police escort was not with the team and they sped off.

"The driver claimed to have trailed them to a point along Conference Hotel where he lost contact with them.

"The director who was shot was thereafter taken to Ijaye Hospital, where he eventually gave up the ghost.

"For our investigation, I have directed the area commander to get to the bank and request for the CCTV footage, which will give us insight into the vehicle in question and possibility of identifying the culprits if they ever ventured to step out of the vehicle or maybe they just maintained their position in the vehicle.

"I have reached out to Lagos and everywhere in the command to block all the exits out of the state while we are try-

ing to identify them because they said they were five and they used hood."

In a related development, an accountant with the Cross River Ministry of Education was on Wednesday shot when gunmen trailed him to the old Government Secretariat near Government House in Calabar.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reported that the accountant, who was shot on the thigh, was trailed to the secretariat from a bank where he had gone to make some withdrawals.

The two gunmen were said to have trailed the victim to his office complex where they forcefully took the bag containing money from him after shooting him at close range.

Spokesperson for the state police command, Irene Ugbo, who confirmed the incident, said the victim was immediately rushed to the Naval Referral Hospital for treatment.

Ugbo said the police were already on the trail of the gunmen who were said to trailed the victim on motorcycle.