

Police move against bank robbers

Odalekan Adetayo

THE Lagos State Police Command has concluded arrangements to tackle the resurgence of bank robberies in the state.

The command's spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, told our correspondent on the telephone on Sunday that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, has re-energised the command's anti-bank robbery squad.

It will be recalled that the state recorded two foiled bank robberies on Sunday and Thursday last week.

In the first incident, suspected robbers, numbering about 35, stormed the Ago Palace, Isolo branch of a bank at about 1am in five vehicles and killed one of the security guards on duty.

They engaged the police in a gun battle that lasted over five hours after which about 557 empty shells of 7.62mm calibre ammunition, one empty cartridge and three welding gas cylinders were recovered from the scene.

On Thursday, about 15 heavily armed men also stormed an Epe branch of a first generation bank and engaged policemen in a gun battle.

One giant chisel, 107 expended and one live 7.62mm calibre ammunition were recovered. The robbers did not succeed in any of the incidents.

Ojajuni said the anti-

bank robbery squad, which was initially located at the police headquarters, had been decentralised on the orders of the police boss.

This, he said, explained why policemen arrived the scenes of the two cases last week on time.

He also told our correspondent that Adebayo had ordered the deployment of riot policemen in all the eight police area commands in the state to ensure timely response to distress calls.

While saying that it will not be wise for the command to disclose all the details of the measures put in place to curtail the menace, Ojajuni said, "anybody that wish to continue to engage in robbery, either in banks or any other place in the state, is only mortgaging his life."

"The CP has put in place mechanisms that will not allow robbery to succeed. Robbers will only end up cutting their lives short."

Three arrested for stealing animal feed

Doyin Adebusi, Ilorin

THE Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Kwara State Command, on Friday paraded three suspects alleged to be involved in the theft of animal feed worth about N50,000.

The NSCD also paraded a 35-year-old man (name withheld) said to be the buyer of the stolen product and a vehicle marked XA 586 WSN, which was allegedly used in conveying the goods.

While briefing journalists on the arrest of the suspects whose ages range from 18 to 20 years, the Acting Commandant, Mr. Phillip Ayuba, said the suspects were members of staff of Ascending Feed Mill Company located on Pipeline Road, Ilorin.

He said the suspects had allegedly confessed to have stolen 45 bags of the product from the company on

four occasions.

Ayuba said following a tip off, his men laid siege to where the suspects were about to sell the product and arrested them with the buyer.

He said, "This is something they have been doing for over a period of time. We have made our investigation and we are satisfied with their confessions, we are going to hand them over to the police for further investigation."

Although the suspects owned up to the crime during separate interviews with newsmen, the buyer, who said he was a poultry farmer, denied buying stolen feed.

The owner of the company, Mr. Nurudeen Abdullazees, expressed shock at the discovery.

He described the suspects as some of his trusted hands in the company.