

# Police trail hoodlums who raided foreign firm

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Port Harcourt**

THE Rivers State Police Command said on Wednesday that it had begun a manhunt for a gang of robbers that raided an expatriate road construction firm in Kpean, Khana Local Government Area of the state last week.

## Robbers write banks

**Femi Makinde,  
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BANKS operating in Bonny Island of Rivers State are now gripped with fear, following a letter written to them by armed robbers.

Our correspondent learnt that the letter, dropped close to the palace of the monarch in the area, asked the banks to keep money ahead of their coming.

The letter threatened to kill the managers and other bank workers should they fail to comply or report the matter to the police.

A bank worker who pleaded anonymity said that the letter asked the manager of the bank that was recently raided to make some money

The robbers, armed with sophisticated weapons, reportedly killed a police officer attached to the construction firm, Rivico, before making away with N1 million cash and other valuables.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the state, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, told our correspondent that the robbers invaded the company with the hope

available for them to replenish the stock of ammunition used during the operation.

According to the said text of the letter, the robbers claimed that their ammunition was wasted because the manager did not make money available to them during their last operation.

The bank worker said that they might have to close the branches if the safety of their staff and depositors' funds could no longer be guaranteed.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, confirmed that the police had been having security problems in Bonny but she said that it had not gone out of hand.

Barasua added that there was no need for the residents of the area to panic as the police were up to the task.

of making away with the money meant for the payment of employees' salaries but missed it.

Barasua, a deputy superintendent of police, said that although no arrests had been made since the incident on Saturday, the police had begun investigations into the matter and were determined to fish out the culprits.

In a related development, the command has said that the robbers who tried to snatch a bullion van at the Akpajo-Elleme Junction near Port Harcourt on Tuesday, managed to escape after killing a woman.

Barasua said that the robbers had fired at the bullion van but the driver, aided by some policemen, managed to escape and sped off.

In a bid to get hold of the van which was carrying money from Port Harcourt to Onne, the hoodlums fired several times into the vehicle but could not hit the driver.

As the information spread, a contingent of riot policemen from many police formations in and around Port Harcourt moved in to challenge the fleeing robbers, who managed to escape.