

# Robbers attack bullion van, kill police inspector

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**S**USPECTED armed robbers on Thursday attacked a bullion van conveying about N53 million from Aba, Abia State to Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital and killed a police inspector in the process.

Numbering 30, the bandits laid ambush on a bad road at Ikot Ekpene when the bullion van, which was part of a convoy, ran into them.

*Sunday Punch* gathered that the bandits, who were all armed with AK-47 rifle, attacked the bullion van with sporadic gun shots.

The police officer, who was identified as Inspector Joseph Awoke, occupying the front seat of the bullion van, was shot

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# Robbers attack bullion van

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dead.

Undeterred by the incident, the driver of the vehicle managed to escape to a checkpoint where mobile policemen came to his rescue.

However, the other policemen were said to have scampered into the bush when they noticed that they could not withstand the firepower of the hoodlums.

Reacting to the incident, the Akwa Ibom State Police Command Commissioner, Mr. Azubuike Udah told newsmen that the bullion van was carrying the money belonging to the Uyo branch of one of the commercial banks [name withheld].

He said the money was intact because the suspected robbers could not gain entrance into the bullion van with registration No. PF 2305 SPY.

The commissioner, who identified the late police in-

spector as a personnel of the operations department of the state police command, disclosed that he had reported the matter to the Inspector-General of Police.

According to him, the police will support the family of the deceased in its bid to cushion the effect of the loss.

Udah said, "There is an insurance cover and what we call hero's grant for any police officers who dies on duty.

"I will write to the Inspector-General of Police and recommend that all those incentives be given to the family of late Awoke who was shot dead in the attack."

Speaking with our correspondent, a cashier of FCMB, who was among the convoy, Mr. Thomas Besong stated that they went to pick up money in Aba, Abia State when they realised that the bank had run short of money.

"We ran into armed robbers between the boundary of Abia and Akwa Ibom states

and when they opened fire, some of us ran into the bush for safety.

"The robbers were armed with very sophisticated guns and unfortunately, they killed one of the six policemen who escorted the bullion van," Besong said.

One of the policemen, Mr. Louis Akpan, who survived the ambush told our correspondent that he ran into the bush for safety when he heard the deafening sound of gunshots.

He stated that he later made his way to an area where a woman directed him on how he could reach the police command in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

"When I escaped into the bush, I did not know exactly where I was until a woman showed me the way to a motor park where I took a vehicle to this place," the ruffled police officer said.

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