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•L-R: Bishop of Lagos, Revd Ephraim Ademowo; Vice Chancellor, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Prof. Jide Olaniran; Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. Gbolahan Folayan at the official commissioning of 288-bed hostel built by the Lagos diocese.

Lagos cabinet mourns Godwin Agbroko's death...as robbers kill eight policemen in Lagos

JIBOLA OYEKUNLE

THE Lagos State Governor, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, and his cabinet have described the killing of Mr. Godwin Agbroko, Chairman of the editorial board of THISDAY Newspapers by suspected armed robbers as tragic and a monumental loss to the journalism profession.

In a statement made available to *Sunday Punch* and signed by the Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Oladele Alake, the members of the executive said, "The untimely demise of Agbroko is a monumental tragedy and a great blow to the journalism profession, Lagos State where he lived and worked and the Nigerian nation as a whole.

"The slain journalist added tremendous value to public discourse in Nigeria through his incisive, deeply analytical, intellectually stimulating, philosophically thought-provoking and socially relevant writings par-

ticularly in his column, *This Nation*, a must read for millions of Nigerians every Tuesday. A literary craftsman of the highest order, Mr. Agbroko was evidently very widely read and combined in an uncommon manner, academic brilliance with practical wisdom that could not but enrich the perspectives of his readers."

They noted that the late journalist used journalism to crusade in a subtle but most effective way for a decent society where civilized values that enhance human dignity are adhered to.

While commiserating with the staff and members of *This Day Newspapers*, they called for an overhaul of the Lagos security system. "We join the entire management and staff of THIS DAY in mourning the sad loss of a worthy professional colleague and a wonderful human being.

"We equally condole with the members of his family, particularly his wife and children, and pray that God grants them the grace to pass through this difficult moment.

May his soul rest in peace," the statement reads.

Meanwhile, five policemen attached to Apakun junction in Oshodi area of Lagos State were on Friday shot dead by a suspected gang of armed robbers.

The incident happened barely 30 minutes after Mr. Agbroko and another three policemen were shot dead also by suspected men of the underworld.

Sunday Punch investigation revealed that the robbers, who had earlier killed Agbroko and three policemen attached to Iyana Isolo along Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, were the ones responsible for the death of the five policemen.

Agbroko was killed on his way from office in Apapa when he ran into a robbery scene at Daleko fly over, Iyana Isolo.

The robbers, who were said to have gone wild, having killed Agbroko, did not spare minutes in firing another round of shots at the three policemen attached to the area.

The incident happened around 10pm on Friday.

It was gathered that the five deceased policemen attached to Apakun, which is just a few meters away from the gory scene of the operation, were responding to the distress call over the robbers' attack when another tragedy struck.

A police source, who witnessed the incident, told *Sunday Punch* that the five policemen fell to the robbers' bullets because they could not identify the robbers' vehicles.

He said, "The robbers, who had already left the operation scene, were on the run in a paragon vehicle and a Mercedes Benz when they sighted the five policemen. They were quick to suspect that our men were on their trail, so they fired shots at them," the source said.

Confirming the incident on Saturday, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Bode Ojajuni, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said the remains of the affected policemen have been deposited in the mortuary in Lagos.