

40 robbers raid bureau de change

AKIN OYEDELE

A GANG of about 40 armed robbers, early Saturday morning, raided a bureau de change located at Sabo area of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, carting away unspecified amount of money in local and foreign currencies.

Two persons were feared killed in the three-hour operation that reportedly lasted from 1am to 4am, while three others were injured.

The first victim, who was killed at the scene of the incident, was identified as Zakari Abedi, while the second person, Mr. Kazeem Suara, was reportedly killed at Yemetu area of the city.

Suara was said to have ventured into the hideout of the robbers around 5am to ascertain the source of an unusual noise that enveloped the area when he was gunned down.

The gang allegedly left behind two AK 47 rifles and several rounds of live ammu-

nition at the scene of the incident.

In December last year, seven policemen were killed in a similar incident at a first generation bank located within the precinct of the University of Ibadan.

Just as was the case in the December incident, it was learnt that an Armoured Personnel Carrier taken to the scene of the Saturday robbery attack, could not salvage the situation.

When our correspondent visited the place, there were gaping bullet holes on the attacked shop and the adjoining buildings, as well as on some cars parked in the area.

A Toyota Hilux police van marked 36A, which was also riddled with bullets, was also left at the scene.

On arrival in the area, a witness said the gang started firing warning shots into the air before making straight for one of the offices of the bureau de change operators.

After breaking into the

shop with iron cutters, the hoodlums were said to have ripped open a safe found in the shop with a welding gas cylinder.

It was learnt that other operators raced to the mosque located in the area while the operation was going on and raised the alarm through a public address system.

The action was said to have infuriated the gang who began shooting indiscriminately at the direction.

While the salvo receded,

one person was killed while bullets hit three others on the head, thigh and stomach.

The unrelenting alarm by the businessmen, coupled with stiff resistance of the police, was said to have discouraged the gang from raiding other shops.

To demobilise the police team, it was learnt the robbers fired several shots at the tyres and windscreen of the APC.

When contacted, the state command's Police Public

Relations Officer, Mr. Olu Akinmoladun, confirmed the incident.

But for the resistance of the police team, which forced the robbers to flee the area, he said the gang would have wrecked more havoc.

Although none of the robbers was arrested at the spot, Akinmoladun said some of them escaped with bullet wounds.

He said, "We responded to the distress call made by the Sabo residents. Our men matched the armed robbers' firepower, which forced them to run away."

Address development issues or forget our votes —Anglican Church cautions governorship aspirants

DAYO THOMAS

IT was a great departure from the norms at the Arch bishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, Ikeja, Lagos on Saturday, when the church leadership invited all the governorship candidates in Lagos State to present their agenda to the church community.

The candidates present included Senator Musiliu

Obanikoro of the Peoples Democratic Party; Babatunde Raji Fashola, Action Congress; Jimi Agbaje, Democratic Peoples Alliance; Femi Pedro, Labour Party; Remi Adiukwu-Bakare, Progressive Peoples Alliance; Hakeem Gbajabiamila, Alliance for Democracy; Owolabi Salis, Action Party and Ladipo Johnson of the Nigerian Advance Party.

In what could be de-

scribed as a charged intellectual gathering, the Archbishop, Province of Kaduna, Anglican Communion, Dr. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, was firm in his affirmation from in the beginning of the event that issues and not personalities should be the focus of their addresses to the congregation.

The cleric stated that unless the candidates addressed issues that affected the welfare of the people, they (can-