

Robbers snatch bullion van, kill two policemen

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TRAGEDY struck again in Lagos on Sunday when a gang of armed robbers attacked a bullion van and killed two policemen in the process.

One of the victims was a regular police sergeant and leader of the escort team while the other was the driver of the van and a supernumerary policeman.

The incident, which happened at about noon at Oke-Afa area of Isolo, sent jitters into the spines of residents as gunshot sounds rent the air.

It was learnt that the bullion van was earlier sighted at Allen Avenue, Ikeja where the bankers had gone to collect weekend sales money from the branches of a fast food outlet in the area.

The robbers, also operating in another vehicle, were believed to have trailed the bullion van from Ikeja to Oke-Afa, where the

van was intercepted.

Our correspondent learnt that when the robbers' vehicle crossed the van, the bullion van's driver attempted to drive out of danger just as the robbers released their first round of bullets.

The deceased inspector was said to be one of the policemen who faced the robbers in the shootout that lasted for about five minutes.

By the time the robbers took control of the bullion van, the inspector and the van's driver had been felled.

The other policemen in the escort team were said to have wasted no time in escaping from the scene when they saw the superior firepower of the bandits.

Our correspondent learnt that after driving to a relatively safe place, the robbers emptied the bullion van, abandoned it and drove off in their vehicle.

It was also learnt that the

money the robbers carted away from the van was about N1m.

Besides, investigation by our correspondent showed that the bullion van might have been unlocked after the money was kept in it as there was no evidence of forceful breaking of the lock.

When contacted on the incident, the spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, could not immediately confirm the incident.

He told our correspondent that his efforts to contact the divisional police officer in charge of the area of the incident had not yielded any fruitful result.

Meanwhile, the remains of the deceased policemen had been deposited at a mortuary while our correspondent gathered that the surviving policemen were being questioned.