

Robbers kill policeman in Ibadan bank robbery

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

ONE policeman was killed on Tuesday in Ibadan as an eight-member gang of armed robbers attacked the Ring-Road branch of Afribank Plc, carting away over N1m.

The armed gang was said to have cordoned off the Adeoyo junction area of the Ring-Road while the operation lasted.

Before going for the broke, it was learnt that the robbers had allegedly sent the people within the vicinity, including a policewoman, automobile mechanics and a grocery seller packing.

They were said to have informed them that they would be in charge of the area for some time. After a few minutes, they allegedly started firing warning shots to the air.

After gaining entrance into the banking hall without any resistance, the robbers were said to have ordered the customers to surrender their money and mobile phones, before emptying the bank's vault.

The robbery at the bank was said to be the second this year.

The policeman was said to

have been killed during a gun duel with the hoodlums as they were escaping from the scene.

He was said to be among a team detailed to the scene from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Iyaganku, Ibadan.

The victim was said to have been shot in the eye as the hoodlums escaped through the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

An Armoured Personnel Carrier deployed in the scene about an hour after the incident could not salvage the situation.

The incident caused stampede in the area.

Commuters were stranded for a few hours as policemen barricaded all access roads to Ring Road with the hope of tracking down the fleeing robbers.

Relieving his experience to newsmen, a customer of the bank, Mr. Timothy Abijo, said he lost his handset and the N33,000, which he just collected from the bank on behalf of his church.

IG deploys more policemen in Lagos

Kemi Obasola

THE Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, has deployed more policemen in Lagos State to boost the fight against crime.

A source within the police who spoke in confidence with our correspondent said the deployment of the policemen was in line with the request of the state Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, that the Rapid Response Squad be boosted.

Fashola had requested for 2000 policemen to assist the state in the fight against crime.

Our correspondent gathered that when the Inspector-General paid a visit to the state last week to inaugurate Information Box, he directed that 200 mobile policemen be deployed from Kwara and Yola commands ahead of his visit.

According to the police source, more policemen will be deployed within the next few weeks to meet the request of the governor.

The source added, "The policemen will be sourced from mobile units in other states where the rate of crime is low