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Robbers raid banks, police station in Ibadan

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A simultaneous attack launched on Oceanic Bank, Skye Bank Plc and a divisional police station sandwiched between the financial institutions in Gbagi area of Ibadan, on Friday left one suspected robber dead.



Photo file

Inspector-General of Police, Mike Okiro

Seven people, including two police officers, were also said to have been injured in the gun duel between the bandits and the police in the incident that later extended to the Ibadan end of the toll gate. It could not be ascertained as at press time the total amount taken from the two banks.

The incident reportedly forced most of the banks in the city to close shop as early as 2p.m. based on security advice. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ralph Ibeazor, who confirmed the incident, said that one AK-47 rifle and 20 rounds of ammunition were recovered from the robbers.

Sources told journalists that the members of the gang had divided themselves into three groups, with each launching an attack on the three locations at the same time. Ibeazor and the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Mr. Sholla David, were said to have led the police team that repelled the robbers.

It was gathered that the bandits could not gain access into Oceanic Bank through the security door, but then pulled down the burglar-proof of one of the windows to enter the banking hall. The robbers were said to have attacked the police station with the intention of demobilising the men on duty in order to have an unfettered raid on the two banks.

At the end of the gun duel, one bandit was shot dead at Oceanic Bank; one security man was left with gunshot injuries at Skye Bank, while others escaped from the scene. At the toll gate, policemen that laid ambush for the fleeing robbers were said to have opened fire on the gang. Where, the Divisional Police Officer and Divisional Crime Officer were allegedly injured. Four passers-by caught in the fray also sustained injuries.

The DCP said, "It was minus one for the bandits. One of them, whose age is between 20 and 23 years, was shot dead at Oceanic Bank while a security man also received gunshot injuries at Skye Bank. The man has been taken to the University College Hospital for treatment. It was a real gun battle, but we thank God."

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