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Police kill two bank robbers in Bayelsa

By Olamilekan Lartey, Yenagoa

Published: Thursday, 11 Dec 2008

The police in Bayelsa State on Wednesday said there was no cause for alarm as two armed robbers were killed in a gun-duel in front of a bank.



File

Mike Okiro

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations, Mr. Charles Osegbua, confirmed that the bandits operating on a motorcycle opened fire on a police patrol that had been on their trail after they attempted to rob a customer, who had just emerged from a second generation bank in the city centre.

The spate of robberies involving armed men on bikes had turned banking activities into a risky business in Yenagoa, the state capital.

"Robbers have been trailing people to the bank, and at times shooting them fatally. We have energised our patrols and they have been seeing the effects. We are on top of the situation," he said.

The police chief said four armed bandits had trailed a customer to a bank, but good samaritans alerted the police, who then moved in with a patrol team.

Our correspondent gathered that the customer had withdrawn about N1m from the bank.

Osegbua said that at the point, when the hoodlums snatched the bag containing the money from the customer, the police patrol swooped on them.

In the shoot-out that ensued, two of the bandits were killed while the others escaped; a locally-made pistol and six rounds of live ammunition were recovered from the men.

Osegbua said no law-abiding citizen would have a locally-made pistol in his hands and also open fire on police officers.

He added that the identity of the robbery victim would not be revealed for safety reasons.

The police chief, however, appealed to members of the public to always report every suspicious movement to the police.

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