

# Eight killed in Sagamu bank robbery

**NO fewer than eight persons were feared killed on Thursday as armed robbers attacked four commercial banks with explosives in Sagamu, Ogun State.**

It was learnt that the 20-man armed robbery gang, which started their operation around 11am, attacked Diamond Bank, Skye Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank and Zenith Bank within about

one hour at the Sabo area of the town.

The bandits were said to have also engaged in a fierce shootout with members of the local vigilance group in the town.

Those killed in the ensuing confusion included members of the vigilance group, a commercial motorcyclist, a student, among other victims.

It was learnt that a top commander of the vigilance

group, Musbau Araokanmi, and one Letua, were seriously wounded in the attack.

The bandits were said to have used explosive devices to blow up the security doors and vaults of the banks.

However, their attempt to invade a branch of Intercontinental Bank situated in the same area was unsuccessful.

Eyewitnesses said while the local vigilance group

mobilised to resist the robbers, policemen in the town were said to have fled for dear lives.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Muyiwa Adejobi, said the Police Commissioner, Nicholas Nkemdeme, was already on his way to Sagamu for an on-the-spot assessment of the robbery scene.

The PPRO, however, said two persons lost their lives in the attack. "The 25-man gang killed a member of the vigilance group and an *Okada* rider who was watching what was going on nearby. We are however continuing our investigation," he said.

A source, who craved anonymity, said the armed robbers stormed the banks in a Toyota Hiace bus.

The source said, "They were shooting sporadically. All the banks' security doors and vaults were blown off with dynamites.

"Bank staff, customers and a lot of us who were around the premises had to run for our dear lives. The armed robbers came with sophisticated weapons and were boldly challenging policemen and OPC to come out and face them."

## PDP working committee dissolves Osun exco

**Tunde Odesola, Osogbo**

**T**HE National Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party has dissolved the Chief Sunday Ojo-Williams-led Osun State executive with immediate effect.

PDP National Vice Chairman, South-West, Alhaji Tajudeen Oladipo, said this in a statement, on Thursday, in Osogbo.

The statement, which was signed by Oladipo, said the executive was dissolved following a resolution reached after a meeting held between Osun PDP elders' forum and the NWC of the party.

According to the statement, a nine-member

caretaker committee has been appointed to run the affairs of the party in Osun until a new working committee was elected.

There had been no love lost between the Ojo-Williams executive and a majority of Osun PDP members, who accused the leadership of lacking managerial abilities to steer the ship of the party.

According to a cross-section of Osun PDP members, alleged improper handling of the party's primaries led to disunity, which affected the party's fortunes in the last general elections.

There had been strident calls by many members of Osun PDP for the dissolution

of the Ojo-Williams led executive even as Ojo-Williams had described those calling for his removal as undemocratic.

Many members of the party, who spoke with our correspondent on Thursday, hailed the decision of the NWC to dissolve the state executive.

Chairman of an organisation within Osun PDP, Rebirth Group, Chief Tayo Omojowogbe, said the dissolution of the executive was long overdue.

In the same manner, Chairman of another group with Osun PDP, Alhaji Kamorudeen Olagoke, said the NWC acted in good faith by dissolving the executive.