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Robbers kill four policemen, bank manager in Rivers



Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Johnson Tunde Ogunsakin

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Armed robbers struck in Rivers State on Wednesday, shooting and killing four policemen and a middle-aged man identified as a regional manager of a new generation bank.

The incident, which happened at Igwuruta Roundabout in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state at about 9.45am, caused commotion among pedestrians and some motorists plying the Igwuruta Road.

It was gathered that the armed robbers, who had laid ambush for the policemen and the bank manager, opened fire on the Hilux van and killed all the occupants of the vehicle.

The bank manager, according to an eyewitness, was inside the vehicle conveying some funds to another destination when the incident happened.

The PUNCH gathered that the hoodlums had made away with an undisclosed sum of money stashed in Ghana-must-go bags after killing their victims.

“The operation took place at the Igwuruta Roundabout. The armed robbers must have hidden somewhere, waiting for the policemen to come out of the bank before they struck.

“Four policemen were killed and one of the policemen, who tried to escape, was also hit by the armed robbers’ bullets. The heavy gunshots on the Hilux van, did not give the policemen any chance of survival.

“Everybody ran away when they heard the sound of gunshots. Some commercial bus and taxi drivers abandoned their vehicles and ran away,” another eyewitness told newsmen in Port Harcourt.

However, the Assistant Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, describing it as an armed robbery attack.

IringeKoko, however, explained that the security agencies had begun investigation to fish out the robbers and bring them to book.

“It was a robbery attack where the police officers and one regional bank manager were killed. Investigation has begun and the police will get the perpetrators of the crime. I will give you the details of the incident later,” she said.

Meanwhile, the state Police Command, has banned the use of sirens, revolving lights and vehicles with tinted glasses across the state.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Tunde Ogunsakin, said in a statement on Wednesday that the banned items had become threat to internal security in the state.

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Contact: editor@punchng.com

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