



Robbers storm Lagos market, steal N12m, kill policeman

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THERE was confusion at the Alaba International Market in Ojo, Lagos, on Wednesday afternoon when armed robbers stormed some commercial banks, and killed a policeman in the

process.

The robbers were also said to have carted away about N12m.

Our correspondent learnt the robbers, who arrived the market at about 2.30pm, engaged some policemen in a shootout, before escaping with the loot.

According to an eyewitness,

who declined to give his name, the robbers had initially ambushed a bullion van coming from one of the commercial banks.

"I witnessed the robbery. The robbers ambushed a bullion van. It was unbelievable, and unfortunately, a police officer was killed in the process. The robbers got away on power bikes," he said.

It was also learnt that during the robbery, many banks in the market were shut as traders scampered for safety.

A trader, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone, said the robbers took the market and traders by surprise.

A salesman said he had just left one of the banks when the robbery started.

He said, "My boss had given me two cheques to cash at different banks in the market. I had already done the first and was about going for the second. But I decided to wait till tomorrow. I was just entering our store when we started hearing gunshots."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, said, "We suspect insider connivance. A bullion van came from Apapa to a commercial bank in the market to collect money. Four armed robbers came in and took away the money in the banking lobby.

"Three suspects have been arrested so far. Unfortunately, we lost one of our officers, who was in the banking hall and tried to prevent the attack."

foil arrest of colleague

Investigation Department for normal documentations.

He added that the SCID further directed the visiting



security operatives to take their letter to the Area Commander Metro, who could, if there was any need, give them police assistance.

The PPRO said the command believed the visiting security men must have followed the directive.

He added that they were surprised to receive an alert there was a disquiet in the Al-Hikmah University.

Okasanmi said, "We did not even know that they were policemen, the commissioner of police deployed some patrols vans in the school, only for them to discover that those people were the policemen that came yesterday.

"The CP has ordered that the policemen be brought to the headquarters and he directed investigation into the matter.

"As of now, everything is back to normal and the policemen are at the SCID undergoing investigation. The students have resumed normal academic activities in the campus. There is no more problem."

•Abdulkareem

Photo: Success Nwogu