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Bank, others close in Ikare after robbery attack

JANUARY 15, 2015 BY OLUWOLE JOSIAH 0 COMMENTS

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Following the attack by armed robbers on banks in Ikare Akoko, Ondo State, on Tuesday, banks and other commercial offices were closed on Wednesday for fear of further attack.

It was also gathered that many parents did not send their children to school.

There were fears that the number of deaths could be over 20, as the police said they were still working to put together the actual number of those killed in the raid.

But residents said 20 bodies were eventually recovered, while several others were injured.

A visit to Jubilee Road, where the affected banks are located, showed that the banks did not open to customers.

The affected banks included the First Bank, Skye Bank and Eco Bank on Jubilee Road, the commercial center of Ikare Akoko.

A shop owner in the area told *PUNCH Metro* that the armed robbers came in about four vehicles and mounted blockades on all routes leading to the area.

He said four policemen were sprayed with bullets, and those waiting at the ATM to withdraw money were also caught in the fire.

The trader noted that the bandit numbering about 25 operated simultaneously at the three banks while other members of the gang attacked the police station very close to the banks.

He said, "Three other policemen were killed at the police station while a police officer was injured, but a former chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Ezekiel Eniola, was not lucky.

"The robbers killed five people after the operation in Ikare Akoko while trying to escape with their loots around Iboropa and Akunnu.

The Ondo State Governor, Olusegun Mimiko and the Commissioner of Police in the state, Isaac Eke, visited the scene of the robbery on Wednesday.

Eke said his men had started investigations and promised to fish out the robbers and make them face the full wrath of the law.

The town's traditional ruler, Oba Akadiiri Momoh, condemned the incident and urged the police to get the perpetrators of the dastardly act.

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