

# Residents, motorists lament rising robberies,

Olamide Francis

**R**ESIDENTS of Fagba junction, Daddy Savage, Jonathan Coker, Railway Crossing, Pipeline Road and environs in the Ifako Ijaiye Local Government Area of Lagos State are in distress over incessant robberies and killings by hoodlums in the areas.

PUNCH Metro gathered from residents that the attacks had become frequent and that many of the miscreants were not just dispossessing residents and passers-by of their belongings, but were also harming and killing them.

One of the heads of residents' associations in the area, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the attacks were becoming a daily occurrence,



• Fagba bus stop

adding that three persons were stabbed to death at Fagba junction in the past week.

"These boys stab and kill people just to snatch their phones. Many have been rushed to General

Hospitals. The boys don't just hang around, they move around boldly. It has even degenerated into traffic robbery. Yesterday (Wednesday), they broke a vehicle's windscreen in front of Providence School, while attempting to attack a man on his way to work," he said.

Another resident, who simply identified himself as Femi, said the miscreants operate mostly in the early hours of the day and from 8pm, adding that motorists now avoid the Agege-Fagba Road to get to their various destinations.

Femi stated, "Fagba has become another thing entirely. The miscreants recently attacked a man while he was dropping off his daughter at school. The daughter had to run into her school, while the father fled in another direction. A lot of people have left Fagba and motorists are afraid of passing through the area.

"Motorists coming from Agege and Ikeja to Iju, Oke-Aro, Ajuwon and similar places prefer to go through Ogba, Akute or Obawole to reach their destinations, because of the attacks. The boys don't just collect valuables, they injure and sometimes kill their victims."

A motorist at the Railway Crossing area, Uche Uzor, also told PUNCH Metro that some of the hoodlums were from the abattoir area, adding that the influx of many people into the area was worrisome.

"Most of the boys carrying out these attacks come from the abattoir. Someone's phone was snatched and the owner was killed two days ago on his way to work around 5am. They are the normal hoodlums around. The influx of people into the area is too much. They bring them

# killings in Lagos communities

in trucks. But I don't know if they are the hoodlums," Uzor stated.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, told PUNCH Metro that the command was aware of the situation, but that no case of killing was recorded in recent times.

## Adamant landlady hospitalised as Ondo demolishes marked building

Peter Dada, Akure

**A**woman, whose identity has not been ascertained, was rumoured to have been killed when her house was demolished for the ongoing road construction in the Ijoka area of Akure, the Ondo State capital, on Tuesday.

It was gathered that the woman, who owned a building in the area, allegedly refused to vacate it after earlier warning from the state government officials.

The building was said to have been marked for demolition a few months ago by officials of the state Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.

According to a source, the incident occurred on Tuesday when construction workers arrived in the area and started the demolition as the woman allegedly refused to move out.

The rubble of the building was said to have fallen on her.

The Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr Idowu Allen, who confirmed the incident,

Adejobi stated, "We are aware of one or two isolated cases of stealing from persons and not robbery attacks, but no case of killing was recorded at all. It's a mere rumour. The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, Hakeem Odumosu, is sensitive and responsive to the situation at Fagba and he has

deployed men, patrol vans and an Armoured Personnel Carrier in the Fagba area on a 24-hour basis to secure the place.

"In addition, our intelligence units have been mandated to do the needful in the area generally. Fagba is safe as we speak. There's no cause for alarm."



• Ondo Gov, Rotimi Akeredohu however, said no life was lost as the woman was rushed to the

Police Hospital in Akure.

He said "I can confirm that there was an accident, but that was about three days ago and the person affected is in hospital recuperating.

"It was not actually a bulldozer accident. The bulldozer did not touch her, but the bricks of the house being demolished hit her, while she was trying to manoeuvre her way out. She has been taken to hospital and she is still in the hospital now."

## Widows engaged as sweepers occupy

Chidiebube Okeoma, Owerri

**S**CORES of widows, on Thursday, blocked the entrance gate to the Imo State Government House in Owerri in protest.

The women, under the aegis of the Imo Widow Sweepers Association, disrupted the flow of traffic around the Government House.

They said the Governor Hope Uzodimma administration owed them six months' salaries.

The leader of the group, Mrs Mercy Okorie, told journalists that

the state government terminated their employment last year but refused to pay them their six months' salary arrears.

She said they would not leave the Government House gate until the governor agreed to pay them.

"We are widows, who used to sweep the streets of Owerri. We are over 500 in number. The government disengaged us last year, but refused to pay us our six months' arrears of salaries. We have made efforts to get our salaries paid, but there's no headway. We are owed N90,000 each, because our salary every

## 7 suspected traffic robbers arrested in Lagos



fight against the menace would be intensified."

The statement also said Odumosu had ordered the continuous training for police personnel attached to the Anti-Traffic Robbery Squad towards tackling traffic robbery.

"The CP has ordered that the combat training, musketry and range practice for police personnel in the command should be continuous as the command also commenced the training of police operatives attached to the newly-formed Anti-Traffic Robbery Squad to tackle the menace of robbery in traffic in Lagos State," the statement added.

The commissioner also attributed the successes recorded in the fight

against crimes and criminality in the state to the training and re-training of police officers and men, and constructive collaboration with the public and other security agencies in the state.

In a similar development, operatives of the Rapid Response Squad nabbed two notorious suspected robbers on Tuesday.

The suspects are Tunde Ramoni and Adepoju Samuel.

Ramoni was arrested in the Ojota area, while Adepoju was caught in the act of robbing a motorist with an unregistered motorcycle around the Tipper area of Ketu.

Odumosu directed that the suspects be transferred to the command's Special Squad, Ikeja, for proper investigation. "

even before the recent donation of crime-fighting equipment and communication gadgets to the command by the Lagos State Government, adding that the