

in life.

# Bullion van attack: Tears as slain Osun REC's aide buried in Ibadan

**Olufemi Olaniyi, Ibadan**

**T**he remains of the 37-year-old Mubarak Suleiman Olanrewaju, who was shot dead by armed robbers during the attack on a bullion van at the Idi Ape area of Ibadan, have been buried.

It was gathered that he was first taken to a nearby hospital and from there to the University College Hospital, Ibadan, where a source said he was rejected because of lack of space.

He said he was eventually confirmed dead at the State Hospital, Adeoyo.

Members of his family told our correspondent at the Ajibode area of Ibadan on Friday that the slain Mubarak, who was the personal assistant to the Resident Electoral Commissioner of Osun State, Prof. AbdulGaniy Raji, was buried on Thursday at a Muslim Cemetery at Akinyele Local Government Area in Ibadan.

The deceased's wife, Adebimpe, a pharmacist, who was said to be traumatised by the sudden death of her husband was not in a position to grant an interview.

The police had in a statement described the civilian who died as an onlooker but the family said Mubarak's death was very devastating to them.

The spokesman for the family, Abdullateef Olawepo, said that the police described Mubarak who was caught in the web of the violence and shot dead right inside his car as an onlooker.

He said, "Why will any reasonable person describe him as an onlooker? He was coming from Ikire where he had gone to pick his two-year-old son from his grandparents. He was caught in the traffic and could not escape. He could have sped away from the scene if no vehicle was blocking him.

"We are saddened by his death, but describing him as an onlooker is more saddening. No reasonable man will stay there to watch such an incident. He was not an onlooker.

"The police should fish out his killers and punish them. We know that 'investigation is ongoing' is the police's usual statement, and that will be the end of it. Oyo State has now become a friendly zone for armed robbers and other hoodlums."

Meanwhile, the Osun State Resident Electoral Commissioner has described the death of Mubarak as shocking. He said this in an interview with our correspondent on Friday.

He said his late personal assistant had been with him since he was appointed as REC.