



Tension over killing of robber in Benin

From **Tony Osauzo**, Benin

TENSION mounted yesterday in Benin City, Edo State, following the killing of a middle-age man around King's Square (Ring Road) by policemen believed to be attached to the Oba Market Police Station.

According to a police source, the victim was a suspected armed robber who had been on the wanted list of the police, who allegedly coordinated early-morning robberies yesterday morning after the New Year crossover, where mobile phones were stolen from several persons.

The killing, however, raised concerns as members of the public believed the dead man was innocent. Consequently, the routes to the Oba Market Police Station were yesterday barricaded for fear of reprisal attacks.

It was learnt that one of the two girls found in the company of the deceased has been arrested as an accomplice, following the alleged recovery of some of stolen phones from her.

"She has been transferred to the anti-robbery squad in the state command for further interrogation. The guy, whose body has been deposited at the mortuary, had been wanted by the police," a police source said.

Meanwhile, Governor Godwin Obaseki has urged the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Johnson Kokumo, to investigate the incident because of the outrage the shooting generated. In a statement, Special Adviser on Media and Communication Strategy to the governor, Mr. Crusoe Osagie, said: "The governor has asked the CP to thoroughly investigate the incident, and assured that anyone found culpable will be brought to book.

"The governor is disturbed by the incident and wants a clear report on what actually transpired and the condition under which the reported shooting took place."

He said the Obaseki administration has prioritised security of life and property with the huge investment in the state's security architecture and trust fund launched recently, and would stop at nothing to get to the root of the incident.

"The governor has urged the police commissioner to investigate the incident thoroughly. I am confident that we will have the true picture of what transpired after the investigation. I can assure you that the state government will take a decisive action on the matter," Osagie said.