

# Uromi bank robbery

## 2 cops, 5 civilians killed

From **Tony Osauzo**,  
Benin

**GUNMEN** suspected to be armed robbers, yesterday evening, reportedly launched simultaneous coordinated attacks on three commercial banks in Uromi, the headquarters of Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

The gunmen, who were alleged to have come in their numbers and several vehicles, reportedly attacked the banks with dynamites for over one hour.

It learnt that at the end of the operation, no fewer than five persons, including a police officer were killed by the unmasked gunmen who were said to have succeeded in making away with large sums of money from the

three banks.

A resident of the community, who would not want his name in print, described the attacks as "too coordinated and in commando style" adding "This is novel in this town.

"The sporadic shots by the armed robbers caused panic in the town. The robbers came prepared. People were just running helter-skelter," another source said.

Residents were said to be making contacts with security agencies to come to the rescue of the banks and the residents.

When contacted, spokesman of the Edo State Police Command, SP Kontongs Bello, confirmed the attacks. He said "that's true sir", but declined to give further details.