

2 Killed in Bank Robbery

A gang of 10 armed robbers yesterday struck at a first generation bank in Onueke, Ezza South Local Government area of Ebonyi State, killing at least two persons, including a police inspector and a civilian.

Less than two months ago, robbers stormed a new generation bank in Afikpo, also in

EBONYI

From Christopher Isiguzo

in Abakaliki

Ebonyi State, killing no fewer than 15 people.

The armed robbers were also said to have carted away an undisclosed amount of money from the bank, in the operation which lasted less than an hour. The police Inspector was said to be one of the security guards at the bank, while the civilian was a customer.

An eye-witness said the robbers who got to the bank around 9 a.m., in a blue-coloured Mitsubishi bus, shot sporadically into the air in a commando-like manner, and operated with-

out any resistance from law enforcement agencies.

Informed sources also said when the robbers overpowered the police security personnel in the bank, members of the community's vigilante group rallied round to block every possible escape route, but were forced to abandon the effort, on hearing the staccato of various makes of guns, including AK 47 and LAN assault rifles.

"You needed to be here to hear the kind of sounds emanating from the guns. The sound of the gunshots drove fear into the vigilante group. After the operation which took less than 30 minutes, more than 300 expended shells of bullets dotted the whole area," the source said.

Certificates

He thanked management of the University for the gesture, saying that he was not expecting "brand new" certificates, but rather their attestations.

He said he was worried about the certificates destroyed by the fire, adding, "I am delighted that some of them have been replaced and even laminated by the University".

He also thanked the management for honouring him with a doctorate degree of science, and pledged to continue to support the university in achieving its goals.

The Vice Chancellor, represented by the Registrar, Dr Mussiah Nwokocha, said the University's Senate did not find it difficult approving the vice president's request and thanked Jonathan for fostering partnership between the university and its alumni association.

NDDC Receives N277bn in 7yrs

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) said yesterday that it received N277 billion for its operations in seven years.

The Commission was set up by an acting 2000 to develop the oil producing states. Dr Christy Atako, Head, Corporate Affairs Department of the Commission, made the announcement in a statement in Port Harcourt.

She was reacting to allegations of corruption against the leadership of the commission by a Warri-based group, Niger

DELTA

Delta Mothers.

Atako said the commission was the most monitored government agency in the country, with the nine Niger Delta state governors as members of its advisory committee. She said the commission was also being closely monitored by the Federal Government, through the Presidential Monitoring Committee, the National Assembly, and the Accountant-General's office.