

City SCOPE

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Is Lagos still safe? ●Police reacts

*Continued from
yesterday*

HOWEVER, inspite of all these escapades, the Police in Lagos seem to be poised for action. Their achievements in this regard have really shown that with better equipment, they will be able to curtail the ever-rising rate of crime all over the country. Moreover, the choice of a core operations man as the Commissioner of Police in the state is, no doubt, paying off tremendously.

This is glaringly evident in the number of cases they have tackled so far. Prominent among the cases is the infiltration of a vicious gang of armed robbers who were planning to snatch a huge sum of money from one Company in Ogba, Lagos last month. Cityscope gathered that when detectives attached to the Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) and the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti Yaba got hint of the operation, they informed the Commissioner of Police Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo who laid out the plan of discreetly infiltrating the gang and rounding them up. The detectives reportedly swung into action and, for over a month, they were working out plans to attack the company with the bandits.

It was learnt that the detectives also succeeded in making a lot of promises including ensuring the provision of arms and ammunition to the gang, a promise that made the robbers rejoice that they now have a formidable team of bandits who will ensure that they carry out successful operations in and out of the state.

However, on the D-day, the



**Inspector-General of Police, Mr Sunday Ehindero*

case as the police detectives quickly rounded them up just when they were all ready to take off and raid the company. In fact, one of the robbers confessed that he started the plan after he was laid off by the company and that he was going to do it as a revenge to the treatment he was given.

Aside cases of robbery, the activities of hoodlums have continued to constitute a menace to Lagosians. From Oshodi to Apapa, Oworonshoki to Ajegunle, Ikeja to Mile 12, Ikorodu to Ojota, Idumota to Ikoyi, the story is always the same. No day passes without one deadly skirmish or the other. Area boys have turned themselves into another police force as they tend to hold sway wherever they operate. In fact, the situation got so bad that the Oba of Lagos even ordered security agents to round them up wherever they are seen. But, unfortunately, it has become seemingly impossible to achieve this going by their

Early this month, the hoodlums turned Ojota, Mile 12 and other environs into war zone when they attacked their rival gangs over the result of European League matches. They confronted each other during an attack that led to the death of many people. Property worth several thousands of naira were either burnt or destroyed during the crisis that erupted in the area. It took the prompt intervention of the police with their dreaded Amored personnel Carrier (APC) before peace was restored. Pockets of such clashes reared it's ugly head in many parts of the state and each time, it will take police intervention before peace will return. When the hoodlums were not attacking each other over one flimsy reason or the other, they will be engaged in different extortionsit tendencies which make life very difficult for residents of the state.

In all, the Police said there is no cause to alarm. The

not only totally foiled but we delt a fatal blow on them. In that case, I am happy to announce that majority of the boys that were involved in robbery incidents in banks have been arrested. Others will soon be in police net as our investigations are yielding positive results.

"You should recall that when robbing banks reared it's ugly head last year, the command introduced Amoured Personnel Carriers (APC) and other strategies which assisted in putting total paid to the scenario. We went ahead to publicly parade the robbers after the breakthrough. A special anti-bank robbery squad was created and it is still in place. The Commissioner of Police later re-invigorated and centralized the squad and the impact is being greatly felt as they now respond on time and in an unprecedented manner. Presently, within a snap of your fingers, our men are there ready for action and members of the public have been applauding us.

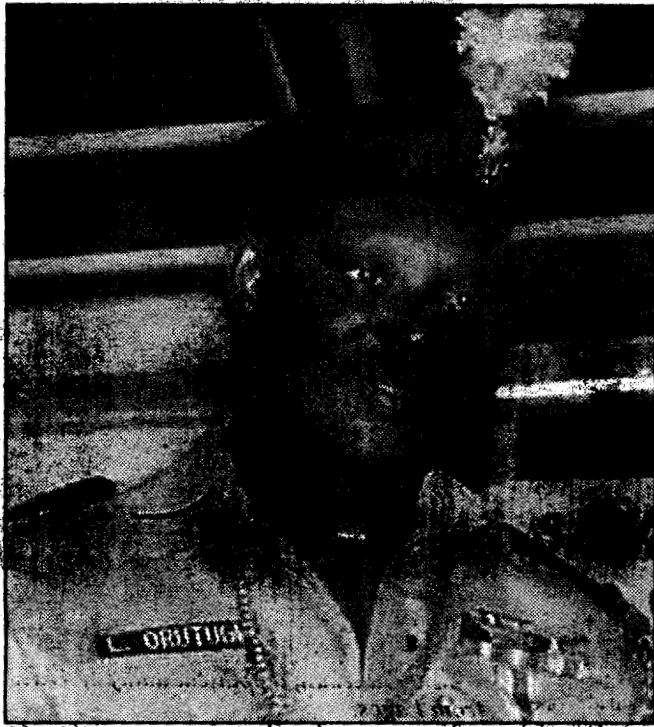
"On the issue of Catch-in-the air, the Commissioner of Police enlarged the Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) of the command. Formerly, they were about 200 but now we have 500 agile and well trained men and the essence is to infiltrate the rank of the robbers. It is on record that we have made a gangantuan breakthrough in this and legions of arrests have been recorded. Many of the dare-devils have been killed during shootout with our men and in each of these cases, we always inform members of the public.

"All I can say for now is that those of them who are still operating are mortgaging their lives as the hands of the law will soon catch up with them. On crime prevention and detection, we are now pro-active. We are going by the Inspector-General of

state.

However, on the D-day, the reverse turned out to be the

seemingly impossible to achieve this going by their large number in the state.



Commander MOPOL 22, Orutuga...his men has been in the forefront of foiling bank robberies

the state.

In all, the Police said there is no cause to alarm. The Police spokesman in the state, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni told City scope, "Contrary to what you are saying, Lagos is very very safe. It will be unfortunate if anybody is trying to create fear when there is none. It will be the figment of anybody's imagination to say that Lagos is not safe. It is on record that many notable members of the public have been complementing the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo for his dogged approach to policing in the state. They have been asking how he has been able to surmount the great challenges facing policing in the state.

"From all indications, we have been able to put crime at bay. What you have are pockets of robbery which are a universal phenomenon. What is important is the ability of the Police to play its role. In that regard, we are doing very well. It is on record that few attempts by robbers to rob banks were

pro-active. We are going by the Inspector-General of Police point of action and that is effective crime control through intelligence-led policing. The Commissioner of Police is determined to pursue this with vigour and candour so as to effect a total accomplishment of the agenda. We have been getting results.

"It is on record that we infiltrated a robbery gang that was planning to rob millions of naira from a company. We succeeded in planting our men from Panty there and they were able to recover about N40 million from the vicious gang. On the issue of social miscreants, it is on record that in the past two months, we have had no records of such attacks. This is because of the operational dexterity of the Commissioner of Police whom you know is an operations man to the core. We do not accommodate the excesses of these miscreants and we react swiftly to any attempt to cause a breach of the peace. What we have been able to do now is that those