

# 40-man robbery gang kills policeman

By Evelyn Usman &  
Rosemary Ojewole

A POLICE Constable attached to Meiran division was early yesterday killed by a 40-man armed robbery gang which carried out a house-to-house operation on over thirty buildings in Abule-Egba area of Lagos and carted away unspecified sums of money, GSM handsets and other valuables.

Reports say the robbers who were armed with sophisticated weapons stormed U-turn bus-stop, Abule-Egba, in about three unmarked buses around 2:00am. They reportedly raided about ten streets around the bus-stop where a house-to-house raid was carried out.

Report say some of the residents opened their doors on their own accord to the robbers who threatened to kill any of them that acted otherwise. During the operation said to have lasted for over two hours, a Police Constable attached to Meiran police station whose apartment was also raided, was reportedly shot by one of the robbers who sighted his uniform in his ward-

robe.

Appeals by the Constable's pregnant wife for the robbers to take all their belongings and spare her husband's life fell on deaf ears as volleys of bullets were released on the man.

Some of the victims who could neither give cash nor valuable properties to the robbers reportedly sustained severe machet cuts, while others, particularly young

men were tied with ropes after being severely beaten.

The bandits said to have shot sporadically to ward off intruders left the scene with their loot around 4:00am before the arrival of policemen from Meiran and Abule-Egba who removed their colleague's corpse to the mortuary. The injured victims according to sources are responding to treatment in undisclosed hospitals.

The affected areas included Lawal street, Niran, Oyedele, Taiwo Yinka, Dada and Sumonu streets.

Contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Olubode Ojajuni confirmed the incident but could not give further details as he claimed he was yet to be briefed by the Divisional Police Officer under whose jurisdiction the operation occurred.

## Obi visits Tinubu, pleads for Ladipo market traders

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

GOVERNOR Peter Obi of Anambra State yesterday visited Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos State in his office and appealed to him (Tinubu) to consider the re-opening of the shut Ladipo auto parts market in Mushin in the interest of the masses.

But he advised the traders to re-examine themselves with a view to avoiding a repeat of the issues that led to the clo-

sure of the market.

Governor Tinubu had ordered the indefinite closure of the market about two weeks ago, following a bloody clash between the traders and social miscreants. The state Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Tunji Bello, in a reaction on the closure said it was shut because the traders contravened environment laws.

Governor Obi who met with the Deputy Governor, Mr.

Femi Pedro, at Alausa Round house office of the governor at a closed door meeting, later told newsmen of his mission to the state House saying that appeal to reopen Ladipo Market became necessary in view of the hardship the continued closure had brought on the people.

He said from discussions held with Mr. Pedro, the Lagos State government has assured that the appeal would be considered appropriately.