

Robbers gun down two Policemen

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS — TWO policemen were weekend in Lagos gunned down by a gang of armed robbers in a gun battle. Two others who received severe gun shot wounds during the gun duel are still recuperating in an undisclosed hospital in the area.

The incident happened at Alakija bus stop along old Ojo road, off Lagos-Badagry expressway at about 1.00am Friday.

Sources said the armed gang numbering about seven were operating at the bus stop and were about breaking into a boutique when a police patrol team in a bus arrived the scene. Apparently thinking that the team had come to confront them, the robbers who were said to be armed to the teeth reportedly opened fire on the team while the policemen responded accordingly.

However, the superior fire power of the hoodlums caused the police to retreat but the robbers gave them a hot chase, deflated the tires of the van and shot dead two officers on the spot. The remaining officers who sustained various degrees of

gunshot wounds succeeded in shooting their way to safety. But two of them who were seriously wounded were later rushed to the hospital for attention.

Dissatisfied, the armed men reportedly opened fire sporadically to scare off intruders, mounted their get away motorcycles popularly called *Okada* and an unmarked Peugeot

saloon car and speed off. The bullet riddled vehicle which the police used was later driven on deflated tyres to the station and is still parked beside police station.

When *Vanguard* visited the station around 3.00pm yesterday, scores of policemen were seen in clusters discussing the tragic incident. The Divisional Police

Officer (DPO) a CSP could not be reached for comments. Even the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni, was not on hand for comments.

But an inside source said the two dead policemen had been deposited at the mortuary for autopsy while the seriously injured two others are responding to treatment.

Two brothers in net for siphoning fuel

By Ola Ajayi

IBADAN — NEMESIS, at the weekend, caught up with two brothers and their uncle who allegedly have been partners in siphoning petroleum products in Ogbomosh, Oyo State.

According to the Public Relations Officer of the Oyo State Police Command, Mr. Fatai Sanni, although the suspects had confessed being partners in crime, "the police are yet to determine the exact form of crime the suspects are into. You can see that the uncle is not ready to say the truth. If they were actually going for bunkering, what

would they be doing with guns, and with what would they steal the fuel", he queried.

"Investigation is still in progress. We learnt that this man has built a storey-building in Ogbomoso, we want to know how he got the money. At the conclusion of investigation, they will be charged to court."

He further explained that the men were caught with three locally-made shot guns, nine live cartridges, six clips and the Jincheng motorbike with registration number OY 3186 RS. When interviewed, the suspects admitted being on their way to commit a crime when men

of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) arrested them.

According to Biodun who appeared to be the youngest of the three, he said he was quite oblivious of the crime he was into as he claimed "Solomon visited us and asked that we accompany him to a relation's house. When we got to Ajelanwa near Ajawa, he told us that he was going to teach us how to break petroleum pipeline and siphon fuel. As we were on our way, we got to a particular place and he stopped the *okada*. He asked me to go into the bush and get him a bag where he had kept it. I went inside the bush and took the bags. They were two."