

Robbery suspect set ablaze in Lagos

By Evelyn Usman

IT was the end of the road for a two-man robbery gang which specialised in operating on motorcycle popularly known as *okada* as leader of the gang was yesterday in Ogba area of Lagos roasted to death.

The robbers according to report, were riding a Jincheng motorcycle with unknown registration number along Acme road, Agidingbi, around 10:00am when they snatched a bag from a woman who had just alighted from a cab. One of them reportedly fired some shots into the air to ward off intruders before they zoomed off.

Apparently sensing that the robbers had exhausted their bullets, other motorcycle operators along Acme road/Surulere road junction, chased them and in the process, leader of the gang who was riding the motorcycle, reportedly lost control and fell into a gutter opposite M.P.I building.

The irate motorcycle operators, dragged both of them out of the gutter and set the leader ablaze. His partner however managed to escape

from the scene and was prevented from suffering his partner's fate by Policemen from Area 'G' command who whisked him into their waiting van amidst protest by the Okada riders to allow them

handle the situation themselves.

One of the okada operators who identified himself as Mr Falowo Folorunsho said, "it is because of their likes that the state government banned

us from operating from 7:00pm. Since the ban, most of us have been suffering because that is our peak hour. We have therefore resolved not to spare any of them when caught."

Obajana Cement to create 10,000 new jobs —DANGOTE

By Peter Egwuatu

THE multi-million dollar Obajana Cement Company on completion is expected to create 10,000 new jobs, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Group Chairman, Dangote Industries Limited said yesterday during a facility tour to the factory in Kogi state.

He further disclosed that \$820 million has so far been committed to the project and on completion, the entire project is expected to gulp over \$1 billion.

According to him, "all the required raw materials for producing the cement is readily available in the country. Ninety-six per cent of the raw material is available in our Obajana

Mines in one location except gypsum which is one of the major points to select a cement plant location. Only four per cent of gypsum is required and they are available in other nearby mines. We have limestone, clay, marl, laterite soil and laterite iron in Obajana Mines."

The plant, he said, is expected to be completed in the second or third quarter of year 2007. "Obajana is the single largest plant in Africa having a capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum cement. It has vertical roller mill with capacity to grind oversize material, High capacity and low power consumption. We have pipeline of approximately 90 km long for supply of gas to the cement

plant and power plant from Ajaokuta to Obajana (capacity 98,000 CU.M/ hr.). We have power plant of capacity 3x45 MW-gas based", he noted.

On environmental pollution in the area, he said "by using the latest and proven technologies, we can achieve a pollution-free environment. Less fuel and power consumption due to high efficiency of the equipment. Power consumption is 87.8 kwh/t, Fuel consumption 730 KCal/ kg of Clinker."

Speaking further, Dangote, said "the Dangote Group decided to venture into full-fledged manufacturing of cement and invested in the Benue Cement Company (BCC) Plc in the year 2000."