

Police kill five armed robbers in shoot-out

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA — FIVE armed robbers yesterday met their Waterloo after a two-hour gun battle with policemen of the Federal Capital Territory when the police went after them in their hideout behind the old secretariat area of Abuja.

Police sources told *Vanguard* that the armed robbers who were about ten in number had robbed a car owner of his Toyota Camry at about 11.30pm on Monday night after trailing him from the Conoil filling station where he went to get fuel.

The following day (yesterday), the robbers took the car to Dagba, a swampy and unused area where they began dismantling and cannibalizing the car obviously for sale as spare-parts to spare-parts dealers.

Luck however ran out for them when information got to the Garki Police Station that robbers were dismantling a car and the police moved over to the area about 1.30pm.

When the police mobilized and got there, the robbers opened fire on the policemen,

resulting in a shoot-out that lasted about two hours.

Because of the swampy and difficult nature of the area, the armed robbers were said to have entered the swamp and escaped into a tunnel where they hid themselves.

But the police, who were undaunted, entered the swamp and threw several tear gas canisters into the tunnel, which forced the robbers to come out, and continued the shooting.

At the end of the shoot-out, five robbers were shot dead while the others escaped, some with wounds. Two AK 47 rifles and a Pistol loaded with ammunition were recovered from the robbers after the shoot-out.

Vanguard gathered that the leader of the gang, who is on the run, is one Nonso while the receivers of their snatched vehicles are one Joshua and Zico who are also on the run.

Meanwhile *Vanguard* gathered that a retired Army General living in one of the estates in Abuja was the victim of the armed robbery attack over the weekend when the robbers numbering about 20 heavily armed stormed the estate about 2 am.