

# Robbers kill 4 policemen, 3 others in bank raid

By Chidi Nkwopara

**O**WERRI — NO fewer than seven persons were feared dead and several others sustained varying degrees of wounds when a gang of robbers stormed the Wetheral Road, Owerri branches of two commercial banks in broad day light yesterday.

Among those who were felled by the robbers' bullets were four policemen and three civilians, although Imo State Police Command admitted that only three policemen died during the operation.

A yet to be determined amount of money was packed in huge Ghana-must-go bags and carted away by the ram-paging armed robbers.

When *Vanguard* visited the two banks at about 12.30pm when the robbers left the scene, their buildings were riddled with bullets while some of their customers were equally seen discussing in very low tones, even as they counted their losses.

Scores of sympathisers

were also seen discussing the broad day robbery and castigated all the security agencies operating in the state, for failing to face the robbers' challenge, which lasted for hours.

An eye witness said the rob-

bers, who came in two vehicles, a Jeep and bus, were clad in military and mobile police uniforms.

"The robbers cordoned off the ever busy Wetheral Road, shot indiscriminately into the

bright sunny Thursday afternoon skies and within a twinkling of an eye, overran the two commercial banks and quickly commenced their nefarious operation", the badly shaken woman recounted.

## Ogbulafor wades into protest against Oke

By Umore Henry

**A**BUJA—THE National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Vincent Ogbulafor Thursday intervened in the protest trailing the emergence of Chief Olusola Oke as the party National Legal Adviser from the March national convention, just as the petitioner, Mr. Benson Goodness Enikuomehin would face the National Working Committee (NWC) next week.

Ogbulafor's move is to save the party especially the new executive of any legal battle

that might affect the on-going reform of the party.

Mr. Benson Enikuomehin, one of the leading aspirants for the position of National Legal Adviser, had on March 11 written a letter of protest to the PDP National Chairman raising legal matters on the propriety or otherwise of the candidature of Chief Oke at the PDP convention.

Speaking with journalists after meeting with the National Chairman and the party's National Publicity Secretary, Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali, Benson said the officers implored him to soft-pedal on his plans to drag the party to court over the sudden emergence of Oke as a

member of the National Working Committee.

According to him, the National Chairman impressed it upon him that his appearance before the NWC on Wednesday will afford members the opportunity to get full details of his case against Chief Oke who will also be present to defend himself.

In the letter of protest he made available to journalists, Benson Enikuomehin, said that Chief Oke "who was returned unopposed" was a member of the Adamu Ciroma Electoral Panel that supervised the election of the party leaders at the convention.