

Robbers kill Police Constable, throw Isole residents into panic

By Evelyn Usman

ARMED robbers on motorcycles yesterday threw the Isole area of Lagos into panic as they began shooting following a foiled attack on a second generation bank. A Police Constable was reportedly shot dead by the fleeing robbers while several persons were injured as they fled for dear life.

But the Police said the robbers target was not the bank but a customer who had gone to withdraw an unspecified amount from the bank.

Report said the robbers who were all clad in black T-shirts and jeans, stormed the bank at about 1.30pm and positioned themselves strategically. Their action was said to have aroused suspicion which reportedly put the policemen attached to the bank on red alert. As the policemen were approaching the gate, apparently to subject the motorcyclists to questioning, they (robbers) reportedly opened

fire.

In the ensuing gun duel, eye witnesses said the policemen shot one of the robbers in the leg as they fled the zone. Unfortunately, a Police Constable whose identity could not be ascertained, said to be returning from work, was reportedly shot by the fleeing robbers, killing him on the spot.

The sporadic shooting threw residents into panic as they fled in different directions for safety, with most of them sustaining injury during the stampede.

Police sources told *Vanguard* that policemen who chased the robbers could not shoot as they fled, as that could have resulted in a number of casualties as a result of stray bullets.

Contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba said "the robbers came in two motorcycles but that their target was not the bank but a customer which they did not succeed in attacking. We are still on their trail".