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Bank manager, 5 others shot dead in Lagos bank raid

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Written by Albert Akpor
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A gang of heavily armed robbers yesterday invaded one of the first generation banks on Lekki phase 1, Lagos killing the bank manager, a cleaner of the bank and four others. But the police through its spokes person, Mr. Frank Mba said only two people including a senior staff of the bank and cleaner died in the raid.

He said the police was going to thoroughly investigate the operation because the armed robbers struck just as a bullion van conveying money to the bank was on its way to the bank. Mba's reaction has fueled speculation that an insider of the bank may not be unconnected to the attack.

This happened just as another gang of two armed robbers attacked a customer who had gone to cash some money from another third generation bank in Victoria Island, dispossessing him of his money.

But the police quickly raced to the scene and gave the robbers a hot chase, shot and arrested one of them identified as Kunle Adeoye. The money which belonged to one Samson Uwah was equally recovered from the fleeing robbers. Two locally made pistol and several live cartridges were also recovered from the hoodlums.

At Lekki, the robbers who sources said were clad in both police uniform and military fatigue came into the area via a speed boat. This incident is coming against the backdrop that the state police command in conjunction with the Port Police had acquired some speed boats equip with modern gadgets to tackle robbers who have resorted to using the lagoon for their operation.

The state police spokes man, Mr. Frank Mba had told Journalists in the wake of a terrible operation at Alapere Ketu which saw the death of about 5 persons including a primary school pupil that the state command was prepared to forestall a recurrence of the operation.

But in yesterday's operation, the hoodlums were mistaken for a joint police/military patrol men by the gate men who gave them express access into the premises.

Shortly afterwards, the bandits reportedly held every body hostage including the gate men and made straight to the strong room shooting sporadically unchallenged for almost one and half hours. They were said to have shattered windows, doors, furniture and every security doors at the entrance into the banking hall.

However, it was not too certain whether they succeeded in breaking into the safe and carted away cash; but an eye witness who confirmed that robbers succeeded in their operation said, "They just took their time in the operation because nobody came to challenge them and carted away a huge amount of money."

Contacted, the Lagos state police public relations officer, Mr. Frank Mba confirmed both incidents but insisted that only two people died in the Lekki operation.. "A senior staff of the bank who had the keys to the safe who was reluctant to handing over the keys and a cleaner were the only ones that were shot dead in the apparition.

In the second operation, the police arrested one of the suspects who now helping us with vital information. The suspect is presently receiving treatment at the hospital.

But a combined team of anti-robbery police men and the military have since condoned off the area scaring passers by.

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