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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Oyo Police Gun Down Theory Armed Robbery Suspects

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POLICEMEN of the Oyo State Command yesterday gunned down three armed robbery suspects in the Bodija area of the state after engaging them in a gun duel. Though, two policemen in the state were gunned down by the bandits in separate incidents, some residents of Ibadan who had fallen victims to the rampaging robbers on different operations commended the gallant policemen who succeeded in killing the gang leader and others for a job well done.

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Vanguard gathered that the gang that met their Waterloo had earlier robbed one of the daughters of the State Governor and stole large sum of foreign currency found on her when coming from a party.

According to police sources, the daughter of the governor was robbed of \$56,000 and one Honda 2008 model she was driving at the time the robbers attacked her.

The same suspected robbers were alleged to have robbed the Iyalode of Ibadan, Chief Aminat Abiodun and many other important people in the city.

While speaking with newsmen at the State Police headquarters, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ralph Ibeazor said he was particularly happy that the police responded promptly to the distress call and caught the robbers who had been terrorizing residents of the ancient city of Ibadan for quite sometime now.

Confirming the death of two of his men, the DC said, "these robbers had been terrorizing residents of Ashi, Ikolaba, and Oluyole areas of Ibadan. It had been very difficult to get them. We are happy that we got them at last. This was one of our biggest catches this year. We will continue to get them. We lost two officers during a gun duel with the armed bandits. We lost one corporal last night and another one was shot in the head this morning".

Among the sympathizers that thronged the command where the bodies of the robbers were displayed were some people who had fallen prey to the robbers.

Speaking with Vanguard, Mr. Akanni Adekunle said, "the robbers had raided more than 28 houses at Salami Estate, Old Bodija. The policemen tried very well.

Another victim who preferred anonymity said, the robbers came to their residence around 7.30pm and dispossessed her of many valuables including two cars, laptops, jewelry, money, ATM cards and mobile phones.

She said, "when the robbers came around, they collected the car keys and my jewelry. They asked me to tell them the Personal Identification Number (PIN) of my ATM, sent one of their men to go and collect the money threatening me that if they found out that I gave them fake PIN, they would kill me, my husband and all my children. They withdrew N100,000 from my account".

One of the injured robbers who identified himself as Emmanuel Johnson said he was lured into robbery by the gang leader named 'Georgie'.

The Secretary to the State Government, Chief Olayiwola Lakojo who came to the command also confirmed the deadly operation that the robbers carried out yesterday morning.

According to the SSG, I appreciate what the police have done and we have to

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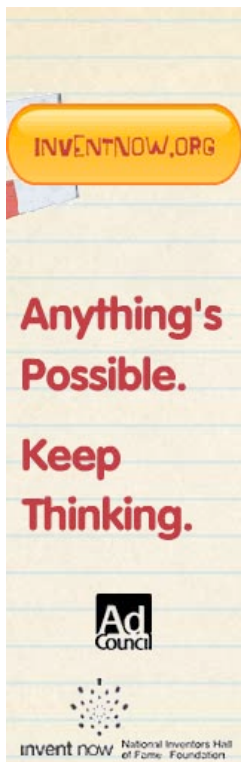
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be grateful to them. They have done excellently well. I was told that it was the same gang that went to rob Iyalode of Ibadan, Dr. K.K. Oloslo and some other people. With this achievement, I believe there will be relative peace in Oyo State".

"We have to salute the courage of the police because in the morning, right inside my quarters at Ikolaba, I was hearing gunshots for upward of two hours. That was why I was unable to go out. I gathered that the police had to use the APC to confront the robbers and that was when they were able to succeed".

He disclosed that a committee set up by the government was looking seriously to the purchase of more APC for use in Ibadan city.

"If these robbers are able to leave Lagos and by the Grace of God if the government is able to get these APC vehicles, we will also drive them away eventually from Oyo State. He stated.

Meanwhile, HUNDREDS of Ibadan residents have been rendered homeless following a rainstorm on Saturday night that killed a 25-year-old boy and destroyed property which costs could not be ascertained at press time.

The storm had preceded a heavy down pour which lasted about 45 minutes. The deceased, Rashidi Gbadamosi who lived at Alegongo Bus Stop, Akobo-Oju Irin area was reportedly found dead under a tree that fell during the storm.

According to police sources, the boy who was outside during the rain bled to death when a withered tree fell on him.

It was gathered that the parents of the deceased had earlier reported at the nearby police station that their son was missing. But after the rain had stopped, they later came to the police station to informed them that the boy had been discovered dead under a tree.

The father of the rainstorm victim, Alhaji Abdul Ganiyu Gbadamosi, said the boy told him that he was going to a party on Saturday but he did not come back. His failure to come home, it was learnt, informed the parents to report at the station.

According to Mr. Gbadamosi, all attempts to talk to him on phone did not yield any positive results.

Mostly affected parts of the city are Monatan, Akobo and Bashorun area. While counting their losses to the storm, Mr. Musbau Ajadi, recalled how the rainstorm wrecked havoc destroying houses and pulling down their roofs.

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