

15-man robbery gang invades shopping mall, kills cop

By Godwin Oritse

LAGOS—A gang of dare-devil armed robbers stormed Grocery Bazaar, the biggest shopping mall in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, killing one policeman and shooting another on the leg, Christmas day.

The robbers, about 15 in number, arrived the supermarket about 9pm, shot into the air and demobilised every body at sight before carting away N2.5

million.

Security sources at the shopping mall told *Vanguard* that the criminals arrived the supermarket and took strategic position before carrying out their operation that lasted about an hour.

Besides monies and telephone sets that were taken, staff and some customers also fell victim to the attack.

The shock-stricken staff and customers expressed concern at the level of in-

security in the state and called for more Police presence in and around the vicinity.

Meanwhile, the Police from Igando have visited the crime scene and collected the tapes from the Close Circuit Television, CCTV, for investigation.

The wounded policeman has been moved to hospital for treatment, while the body of the dead officer was taken to the mortuary.

The supermarket was still under lock and key as at press time.

... as Police kill 3 residents, auto crashes claim 4

By Ifeanyi Okolie

AS the Christmas celebration lasted, residents of Adekunle-Yaba, area Lagos State have been thrown into mourning, following the invasion of the area by armed policemen from both the State Criminal Investigations Department, SCID, Panti Yaba and the State Task Force, who killed three residents, while three others sustained bullet wounds.

This is coming, few hours after four persons lost their lives and five others sustained injuries in separate fatal auto accidents between December 23 and 24, 2010 in Lagos State. It was gath-

ered that the policemen, had stormed the Temidire Community in Adekunle Yaba, on December 23, 2010, to forcefully evict its residents. Meanwhile 50 persons were arrested by the police, who came in over seven vehicles, including a Black Maria and they ordered the residents out of the area but some youth who resisted them, were shot.

One of the victims Agbodemu Musbau, who sustained bullet wound on his neck, gave the identities of those killed as Toafeek Jimoh, Ayo Bamu and Sekoni Olota.

He told *Vanguard* from his hospital bed, that a similar incident happened in March, but no one was

killed and that the case was taken to court.

He said: "The crisis started some seven years ago, when a family claimed ownership of the area. And the matter went to court and the family lost the case.

"But the matter took a different dimension, last March, as some people came again from the state task force to demolish the area and we later found out that they were fake. So when they came again last Thursday to evict us, we tried to know who they were and where they came from, but in our effort, they shot at us and killed three residents, while over 50 other persons were arrested."