

Robbers attack police station, kill 2, cart away rifles, threaten to raid banks

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AT least two policemen were killed last night and several others wounded when a gang of armed robbers launched an attack on the police station at Kwale, Delta State.

Details of the attack were still sketchy but security has been beefed up at the station.

Apart from the killing of the policemen during the bloody raid, some unspecified number rifles and ammunition were carted away by the hoodlums.

Also commercial banks in the town have remained closed to their customers for fear of being attacked again.

Some residents of the community have also fled due to high insecurity in the town as the banks complained that the

robbers had allegedly written them, threatening to unleash another attack reminiscent of the 18th of May raid.

It will be recalled that on May 18, this year, about N84 million was carted away during the robbery attacks on some of the banks in the town in which police were able to recover N4.65 million cash out of the stolen money.

During that raid, the robbers, numbering over 25, used dynamites and other sophisticated weapons to break into the banks.

At a press conference addressed by the Delta State Commissioner of Police, Mamman Ibrahim Tsafe the following day, he listed other items recovered as "three AK 47 rifles, 20 AK 47 live ammunition, 38 empty magazines, expended explosives and dynamites, among others. He said that "a notorious vicious gang of bank robbers numbering over 25 armed with dynamites and other sophisticated weapons audaciously and simultaneously besieged Kwale branches of Unity Bank, Oceanic Bank and Zenith Bank. The robbers also attacked Skye Bank Amai".

'FG's directive on kerosene will not work without IPMAN'

THE eastern zone of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, IPMAN, has said the president's directive to major petroleum products marketers to ensure availability of kerosene failed because independent marketers were not involved.

The chairman, Chief Chukwudi Ezinwa said this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria yesterday in Enugu.

He said the directive failed because the number of stations owned by major mar-

Federal Government should create an enabling environment where IPMAN and major marketers would checkmate each other.

"The government should be open. Let us know how many tonnes of kerosene is given to major marketers and in turn, let major marketers know the quantity given to us as well," he said.

He urged the Federal Government to organise a stakeholders meeting to end kerosene scarcity which has become a national crisis.