



• The paraded suspects.

How nemesis caught-up with 4 robbers who terrorised Ondo for 2 wks

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE — Nemesis has caught up with four daredevil robbery syndicate, known to have been terrorising Ondo State for several years, as the dragnet of the State Police Command has caught up with them.

Trouble started for the suspected robbers, following a manhunt against them, after two weeks terrorising of the state, eventually led to the untimely death of two policemen on their duty post.

Also, within this period, they carried out three successful robbery operations, kidnapped seven persons including two brothers, snatched vehicles, which they changed the number plates to FGN numbers, even as they carted away the service rifles of the policemen they killed.

The policemen were said to be shot dead by the four-gang robbers, at a road-block mounted in Akure, the Ondo State capital by the Command to check the incursion of bank robberies from the neighbouring Ekiti State.

That fateful day, the robbers, who were said to have dressed in police uniforms, were intercepted by the late policemen at the check-point for identification.

But in the process, the robbers who smelt foul, reportedly shot them at close range, where they died instantly. Following this, the robbers made away with the service rifles of the policemen.

However, through the manhunt for them, they met their Waterloo in Idanre area

of the state last week, as the police zeroed-in on them on their way into the state to disturb the peace of the state.

Parading the corpse of the four notorious armed robbers and 40 other criminals, the Ondo State Commissioner of Police, Isaac Eke told Vanguard that the four armed robbers were the killers of two policemen on routine check in Akure recently.

Eke said the four deceased robbers lost their lives after his men gave them a hot chase which led to a fatal accident on that ill fated day. Eke said after the four robbers opened fire on the deceased policemen at the checkpoint, a hot chase by

men of the State Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, led by Inspector Odike Innocent, led to their death.

He said: "After the four robbers opened fire on the policemen at the check point, they snatched and destroyed the police pump action and thereafter headed towards Akure town. Men of SARS led by Inspector Odike Innocent gave them a hot chase and their get away vehicle, a white Hilux marked 11/260 FG that was snatched at Ifon area of the state, in the process crashed into a church fence, leading to their death."

Speaking to Vanguard, Olumide Michael, a

kidnapped victim of the deceased robbers said he and his brother were on their way to Port Harcourt when they were kidnapped by the criminals who disguised as security operatives.

According to him, "those dead criminals pretended to us that they were security operatives, as they drove in a tinted car. They took over my brother's car and drove towards Ifon in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State. When we got to Ifon they kidnapped five other people and drove us straight into the forest.

"When we got to the place, they brought out their guns and asked my brother how

much he had in his bank account and if he was with his ATM card. My brother confessed that he had about N500,000 in his account. They immediately changed the number plate of my brother's car with other vehicles they had snatched to a Police and Federal Government plate numbers.

"They drove towards Owo road through the forest and when we got to an unknown place, they called one man on phone that they were going for another operation in Akure and that they would need police uniform.

"Before going for the operation around 4.am, they tied five of us to a tree, while two of us were taken away by one of them to an unknown place. We were rescued by farmers who were passing the route to the farm when they heard us shouting.

"We ran to a nearby police station to report the incident and the Divisional Police Officer, DPO called us later that he had been informed that some suspected criminals had been arrested. But when we got to the Police headquarters, we discovered that they were all dead and we identified them," narrated Michael.

Meanwhile, the Police Commissioner who said that two AK 47 rifles with Nos 26182 and 3863 were recovered from the robbers, confirmed that the rifles were assigned to the two cops attached to Okuta Elerinla Police Station who were shot dead in Akure by the four robbers.

Other items recovered from their vehicle include a sum of N160, 000, 126 live ammunitions, three magazines, 21 different handsets, two numbers plates (Edo State), substances suspected to be dynamites and charms.

When 2, 000 widows, aged women benefited from Elizabeth Foundation's largesse

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE — No fewer than 2000 widows and aged women in Owo area of Ondo State and its environs, were this Yuletide spoilt with over 400 bags of rice, 140 kegs of groundnut oil, 700 bags of salts and over 2, 500 pieces of six-yard of Ankara, as well as free medical facilities by the Elizabeth Foundation, EF.

According to the Chairman, EF, James Adelami, the kind gesture is in continuation of what his wife, late Bosede Elizabeth was doing as part of her contribution to the welfare of widows in the areas while alive.

He said the late Elizabeth was a good friend of both the widows and

aged people in Owo town and its environs, as she usually threw party for them where they are treated to sumptuous meals and gifts like the biblical Dorcas. Following her demise six years ago, Adelami said he decided to sustain her legacy, as well as improved on it.

He said: "When the programme started, the concentration was on distribution of food items and clothings. But today, we want to teach them how to fish by empowering those of them that can still be productive."

Similarly, the Ondo State Coordinator of EF, Pastor Sam Alabi said the programme is meant to alleviate the plight of widows in Owo and its environs and to put smiles

on the faces of the widows and the aged women.

Sermonising during the ceremony, Pastor David Adeniyi said many Nigerians have the wherewithal to do exactly what the widower does twice a year but lamented that they are too self-centred and insensitive to the plights of the less privileged.

On his part, the Coordinator of the Programme, Kadi Micheal said over 1000 benefited from the Foundation's gesture in Abuja, 700 in Jos and 800 in Markudi and Benue States respectively this year, adding that a provision for 1, 700 widows and aged persons, were initially made, but giving that the number kept increasing, they could not turn them down.