

Three policemen, four robbers feared killed in shoot-out

By Alex Olise

THREE policemen were feared dead at the weekend in Lagos when daring armed robbers attacked the popular Alaba International Market in Ojo local council of the state.

The robbers, who were armed with the latest AK-47 assault rifles; had stormed the market at midnight on Saturday trying to break into shops with a view to removing huge sums kept in safes after the weekend sales.

The Guardian learnt that a team of five policemen were on routine patrol and encountered the robbers, which led to sporadic shooting that claimed the lives of the three officers.

The source added that no fewer than four of the members were shot dead but their members quickly took them away in a waiting vehicle.

The Alaba International Market was attacked last year when a gang of robbers in a broad daylight robbed five banks, shooting sporadically which led to the death of no fewer than 15 civilians.

In that incident, most of the dead victims were passengers of a commercial bus who were crushed by another bus while trying to escape the flying bullets of the fleeing robbers.

Stray bullets of the robbers hit other dead victims.

Robbery incidents in Lagos were brought under control recently when the state Police Commissioner, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar launched a fresh onslaught on different crime-prone areas.