



# ROBBERS WREAK HAVOC IN ENUGU

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TRAGEDY struck yesterday in Enugu as two persons, including an employee of mobile telecommunications firm, MTN, identified as Eric Eze, were killed while several others sustained various degrees of injuries, when a four-man robbery gang operating in a commercial vehicle stormed the state.

The other person felled by the bullets of the rampaging robbers was a tricycle operator popularly called Keke NAPEP driver, whose name was given as Igwe. He hailed from Mgbo in Ohaukwu Local Council of Ebonyi State.

The robbers were suspected to have trailed the MTN staffer from Gariki Park in Awkunanaw where he went to collect over N1 million from a dealer with the company. His bus, branded in MTN yellow colour, with Registration Number YE 903 ENU, was riddled with bullets.

An eyewitness said they had pursued their victim to the Mgbemena Junction and opened fire at his bus, which shattered the occupant's head before making away with the money stashed in a cellophane bag.

He said while a young boy, whose age was said to be below 13, rushed from the commercial taxi operated by the robbers and attempted to pick the cellophane bag, the other robbers started shooting at all directions.

It was one of the bullets that caught Igwe and another tricycle rider, who were rushed to hospital after the robbers had fled.

When The Guardian visited the scene of incident at about 2pm, the bodies of the two dead persons were seen lying at various locations.

While that of the MTN worker was on the driver's seat with blood gushing out of his head, that of the tricycle operator lay beside his tricycle with Registration No. UKP 758 QP

It was also discovered that a crack team of police officers led by the Divisional Police Officer of Central Police Station, Enugu, Ike Mba, were on hand to evacuate the dead bodies.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Enugu State, Ebere Amaraizu, who confirmed the report, said the incident could have been avoided if the telecommunications company had informed the police to accompany the worker while moving the money.

He added that investigations had begun on the matter.

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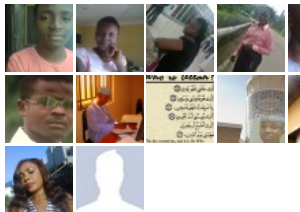
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