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# New Police Initiative Foils Robbery In Onitsha

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The proactive measures put in place by the Anambra State police command seems to be achieving results, as the quick intervention of the police following a distress call forestalled a robbery attempt last week in Onitsha.

The latest victory described by the victim as "superlative performance" and which led to the death of one of the suspected robbers and injury to two of his cohorts, was said to have been effected through the police Special Anti Robbery Squads (SARS).

The command's measures, which included the publishing of emergency rapid response phone numbers to members of the public for immediate report of crime flash points in the state, reportedly passed its acid test as the victim, who had called one of the numbers while facing the attack the robbers was rescued within three minutes in Onitsha.

Narrating the incident, the victim (names withheld) whose Mercedes Benz car had five bullet holes was full of praises for the police. "I was going for a Christian wake-keep when three people on a motorcycle asked me to

stop and began shooting at my car. I refused and continued driving even when one of them jumped down and kept firing. I was able to get to a safe place and called one of the rapid response numbers and in about two to three minutes, the SARS people arrived and battled the robbers to submission," he said.

Confirming the incident, the police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Fidelis Agbo said that the incident took place at Ogboli Eke Street in the Onitsha Inland town. According to him, men of the SARS wounded two robbers and killed one during an exchange of gun fire between them and the

robbers.

Agbo further said that an FNC rifle, nine rounds of life ammunition were recovered from one of the suspects, adding that the police have commenced manhunt for the injured robbery suspects who escaped.

He urged members of the public to report any person found to be nursing fresh bullet wounds to the nearest police station, while directing both private and public hospitals in the state to obtain approval from the police command before administering treatment on any patients with bullet wound or other forms of gun fire injury.

Meanwhile an anti bribery monitoring team set up by the command has created panic among officers in the state following the penciling down of over 60 policemen with picture clips of their activities at various check points.

Though the police image maker failed to disclose their names and how the monitoring teams operate, a police man at the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) told Daily Independent that most police men are scared of collecting money from motorists as it was alleged that the policemen disguise themselves as civilians on buses or motorcycles.