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Three bank robbers killed in Lagos

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A gang of three armed robbers met their Waterloo in Lagos on Wednesday as they attempted to rob a bank customer.

Another member of the gang was, however, lucky to have escaped with bullet wounds after an encounter with policemen.

Our correspondent learnt that the four-man gang arrived at the premises of a new generation commercial bank branch at Trinity area of Apapa at about 2.15pm.

It was gathered that the robbers trailed a particular customer, who was believed to have gone to the bank to withdraw a large sum of money.

The robbers, who came to the bank on two motorcycles, reportedly laid an ambush for their victim at a vantage position very close to the bank.

Their presence in the area, however, was said to have aroused the curiosity of a resident who promptly alerted the police to the situation.

The good Samaritan was said to have given a vivid description of the suspects and their location to the police at Trinity.

The divisional police officer in charge of the station led a team of anti-robbery policemen to the scene.

It was learnt that the robbers' victim had already left the bank and the hoodlums had followed him before the arrival of the policemen.

The security men, on prompting, chased the robbers and closed in on them at Berger area of the Apapa/Oshodi Expressway.

A gun duel reportedly ensued and during the exchange of gunshots, three of the suspects were badly wounded.

The wounded men died before an arrangement could be made for their evacuation to a hospital. The last gang member escaped.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that traders, especially vehicle dealers at Berger, went into frenzied jubilation after the policemen triumphed over the thieves.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Wednesday.

Mba said the police recovered two guns and 24 pieces of live cartridges from the dead suspects.

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He added that the robbers' motorcycles, one Fenco with registration number QQ 903 EKY and another Boxer marked QN 346 KRD, were also recovered.

The corpses, the PPRO said, had been removed from the scene and deposited at a public mortuary.

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