

Robbers kill eight in bullion van attack

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Harcourt**

Armed robbers on Friday attacked a bullion van at Rukpoku Market on the outskirts of Port Harcourt, killing five policemen and three pedestrians in the process.

The robbers had trailed the bullion van up to Rukpoku before intercepting and raining bullets into the vehicle.

The commotion that ensued as a result of the deafening sound of the hoodlums' gunshots caused multiple accidents around the crime scene.

An eyewitness told **SATURDAY PUNCH** that the robbers intercepted the

bullion van at about 5 pm and opened fire immediately.

It was gathered that three bystanders, who were hit by stray bullets, died instantly while an undisclosed amount of money was ferried away by the bandits.

The source said, "The panic that followed the armed robbers' operation caused a lot of accidents. If you get to the crime scene, you will notice that a lot of vehicles were damaged as a result of the commotion.

"The armed robbers shot and killed about five or six policemen and three civilians. People were running helter-skelter in order to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

"But in the end, three

persons that had nothing to do with the bullion van were killed. This happened at Rukpoku Market at about 5 pm today."

It was gathered that the policemen were taken unawares by the hoodlums, who shot several times before they went straight to the bullion van and allegedly took away a huge sum of money.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Suleiman Abba, who confirmed the incident, said he was yet to get the details of the incident.

Abba, however, explained that contrary to the report that six policemen were killed; two of his men were lost to the attack.