

Robbers kill three Policemen, complainant in Enugu

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—THE Enugu State Police Command has recorded another major setback in its battle against men of the underworld as a gang of dare-devil armed robbers ambushed operatives of the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) killing three officers, a civilian and wounding two others.

Sources said the armed robbers carted away five AK47 rifles from the policemen who were said to be pursuing a gang of robbers who had earlier snatched a brand new Nissan bus from the driver at Achara Layout area of the coal city.

The patrol van, an Urvan Bus recently donated to the SARS by Enugu State Government, in which the policemen and the driver of the snatched bus were traveling,

exploded following sporadic shootings by the gunmen. The three policemen and the complainant were roasted inside the burnt police van after they were hit by bullets.

Already, the police authorities has ordered a thorough investigation of the incident to determine the extent of damages suffered by the police on account of the incident, particularly the quantum of arms lost and its consequences on the security of the state.

It was also learnt that the police authorities had vowed to unravel the circumstances that led to the ambush of the SARS operatives while security has been beefed up on various highways in the state to ensure quick crackdown on the bandits.

The Enugu State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr.

Ebere Amarizu, who confirmed the incident to *Vanguard* yesterday, said the five officers of the SARS only responded to a distress call from the driver of the snatched bus which had a tracking device when the incident occurred.

He said that shortly after the bus was snatched, the tracking device traced it to Enugu-Abakaliki highway and the policemen immediately pursued, but unknown to them the armed bandits had laid ambush for them around Ezzamgbo.

Immediately the policemen ran into the ambush, he added, the gunmen who were armed with sophisticated weapons, opened fire from behind the van, killing three officers and the yet to be identified complainant, who was carried along to identify the stolen bus.