

## Armed robbers kill 4, rob bank in Benue

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BY PETER DURU, MAKURDI

No fewer than four persons were Thursday afternoon shot dead by suspected armed robbers who attacked and carted away an undisclosed sum of money from the Vandeikya town branch of a commercial bank, in Vandeikya local government area of Benue state.

Saturday Vanguard gathered that the robbery occurred 48 hours after the local government's monthly allocation was lodged in the bank.

According to an eyewitness, the well armed robbers numbering over 20 stormed the bank at about 3pm and started shooting sporadically after disarming the security personnel on guard within the vicinity. "They stormed the bank in several vehicles and disarmed the police officers on duty at the time, after which they entered the banking hall and ransacked the entire building, carting away all the money in the bank's vault.

"While the operation lasted, four persons were killed, some of them were hit by stray bullets while many including the disarmed police officers were injured."

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent, DSP, Austin Ezeani, said one of the robbers was killed near Oju while the gang tried to escape to Ogoja in Cross River state.

He said the killing of some persons by the robbers had not been confirmed by the command but disclosed that 22 magazines, a Toyota HighLander SUV, a Toyota Carina car and another Toyota car were recovered from the robbers after a gun dwell with the police at Oju.

Ezeani said no arrest had been made just as he said no money was recovered from the robbers.

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