

3 die as police clash with gunmen in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

A policeman and two gunmen were killed yesterday in an exchange of gunfire between the police and gunmen at the Pompomari Housing Estate in Maiduguri.

Witnesses said the gunmen attacked the police at a road-block while they were conducting the stop and search operation which has been

going in the state in the last eight months as part of security measures to stem serial killings in the state.

"The armed men took the three policemen unawares. We heard gun-shots around 11.30am yesterday (Sunday) because our houses are close to the scene," Mohammed Sani, a witness said.

"After the exchange of fire for about three minutes, we heard the sound of a car zoom-

ing away and when we came out, we saw three corpses including that of a policeman and two civilians," Mohammed said.

Police commissioner, Mohammed Jinjiri Abubakar, who confirmed the story said one of his men was killed. "Our men have also killed two of the attackers whom we believe are members of the Boko Haram sect," he said. He said there were only three policemen at the spot when

the gunmen attacked. "They took advantage of the situation because most of our men have been deployed to red spots in the town. But we have changed our strategy...I have directed that henceforth, we should have not less than 10 policemen with a patrol vehicle at every checkpoint," the commissioner said. He said his command was succeeding in controlling the serial killings in the state.



'Genuine Muslim-Christian relationship possible in Plateau'

From Andrew Agbese, Jos