

Gunmen kill police inspector, 2 pay clerks

From Terkula Igidi, Jalingo

POLICE said in Jalingo yesterday that unknown gunmen Friday attacked and killed one police inspector and two finance clerks of Yorro local government of Taraba State along Nsoreng to Kpantisawa road while returning from Jalingo with staff salaries.

Inspector Simon Alev, who was the first victim of the killers' bullets, was shot in the head and died instantly when the local

government bus conveying staff salaries with three police escorts and nine local government workers was waved to stop by four men who stood by the roadside beside a silver coloured car, pretending to have a breakdown, opened fire immediately the bus refused to stop.

Ismaila Balawen, a pay clerk in the budget department of the local government, who survived the attack but with a shrapnel in the shoulder, told *Daily Trust* the yet-to-be-identi-

fied gunmen stood beside a silver coloured car with the bonnet open and while passing, one of the men waved them to stop, pretending as if they (gunmen) needed help to fix their broken down car, with one of them bent over the open bonnet.

"Our driver wanted to stop but one of the policemen told him to move on. Immediately we passed them, we had hail of bullets raining on us. A bullet hit the inspector in the jaw

and he slumped on the laps of the driver who ducked low and was still driving while the assailants' bullets pursued us from behind," he said.

According to him, the second bullet caught Ibrahim Kanke, one of the pay clerks, in the head and he died on the spot. While some of them ducked under the seats as bullets buzzed over their heads, Douglas Koula Anthony rose up to see if truly Kanke was shot and a bullet hit him

at the back of his head and he became unconscious. He was later taken to the Federal Medical Centre where he died the following morning. The police have confirmed the incident and said it was an unsuccessful operation on the part of the police, having lost one of their own.

Chintua Amajor Onu, the police commissioner, told newsmen in a press briefing that investigations are on and the culprits will soon be arrested. Mean-

while, the chairman of the local government, Hon. Salihu Gidado Yakubu said the gunmen could not snatch the pay money because the driver courageously drove to safety with a dead policeman on his laps, and salaries have been paid without hitch.

He appealed to the state government and the state police command to beef up security in the rural areas, saying he would employ the services of vigilante groups to assist in community policing.

Aiimchi inaugurates panel on Oyo NUPTW crisis