

Gunmen kill four policemen in Borno, Taraba

From **Njadvare Musa** (Maiduguri) and **Charles Akpeji** (Jalingo)

GUNMEN on Tuesday evening ambushed a six-man police patrol team on the Maiduguri-Bama Road and killed three of them. They injured three others, including the driver of the vehicle. The incident occurred at 5 p.m.

An eyewitness said that the gunmen ambushed the policemen, who were in a Golf Volkswagen vehicle near the Dalori Quarters.

He said: "When the gunmen opened fire on the patrol vehicle, the driver moved on, swerving on the road to dodge the gunshots. It was in the course of attempting to escape from the scene that two of the policemen were shot dead."

The witness said men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) at the Dalori military post, rushed to the scene, but the gunmen had fled in the unmarked vehicle towards Konduga, 40 kilometres east of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Gideon Jibrin, who confirmed the attack, said: "We received the reports of

the incident this morning (yesterday), indicating that two of our men and officers were killed, while two other policemen also sustained various degrees of injuries."

He said the policemen were returning from a patrol on the Maiduguri-Bama Road, when the gunmen struck. Gunmen have also killed a police sergeant identified as Ishaya Mishel in Taraba State.

He was allegedly shot dead at his duty post along the popular Nassarawo roundabout in Jalingo, the state capital.

The incident, which occurred at 2 p.m. yesterday was confirmed by the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Amos Olaoye. He said the command would track down the suspects.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested three members of a six-man gang, which have been terrorising some local councils and carting away the salaries of the workers.

The suspects, according to Olaoye, hail from Jos in Plateau State, Enugu State and Onitsha in Anambra State.

The hoodlums, he said, were caught while attempting to carry out their hideous activity in one of the councils.