

Robbers invade FRSC office, kill four

By Tina Anthony

KANO—FOUR officers of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Kano Command, were on Monday night, killed by a gang of armed robbers, who invaded FRSC office and carted away a car belonging to the command.

Vanguard gathered that the armed robbers attacked the FRSC office and killed the four officer on duty, and made away with the jeep, which they later abandoned on the road, when they ran out of fuel.

The four FRSC officers died on the spot. Efforts by newsmen to get the Sector Commander's reaction did not yield any fruit, as he was quoted as saying that he was awaiting clearance from Abuja before he could grant interview to pressmen on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Baba Mohammed, who confirmed the incident to journalists, said "it was a shocking development".

The police spokesman, further said, "from the information we have gathered so far, the armed robbers after killing of the FRSC officers tried to escape with the car, had an exchange of gun fire with the Policemen at Gida Buhari and later abandoned the car at the Kano state trade fair complex."

According to him, "no Police officer sustained any injury, but investigation is

still on to unravel the circumstance leading to the killing of the four FRSC officers."

He called on members of the public with useful information that can lead to the arrest of the armed robbers to please

come forward and provide same to the police, stressing that security is a collective responsibility of all citizens.

Oil blocks: Senate Committee calls for suspension of auction

By Emmanuel Aziken

ABUJA—THE Senate Committee on Petroleum (Upstream) has advised the Federal Government to suspend the planned auction of 45 oil blocks scheduled to hold next month.

The Senate Committee in a letter authored by Senator Lee Maeba, the Committee chairman, and addressed to the Minister of Energy, Dr. Edmund Daukoru, expressed dismay that the Federal Government was going ahead with the bidding round despite unresolved issues surrounding the 2005 and 2006 bidding rounds.

In expressing the Committee's disapproval of the auction in the letter to the Minister, Senator Maeba noted the Committee's amazement that the auction was set to commence "when several issues arising out of the 2005 and 2006 Bid Rounds are yet to be addressed."

He said: "You will recall our letters requesting for a comprehensive report on the 2005 bid round and the 2006 mini-bid round which your

office is yet to comply. Several petitions arose out of the conduct of these bids and this puts to question the credibility of the bids which are currently investigating.

"The public is suspicious of another bid at this time, with less than two months to handover, when the level of development of the blocks sold in 2005 and 2006 leaves much to be desired. These have generated public

petitions to the Senate."

Expressing concern that the bidding rounds were turning into an annual ritual as opposed to periodic events in other oil producing countries, the Committee chairman concluded by expressing misgiving that the authorities were focussing more on the auctions than on ways to maximize the country's strategic reserves.

'Granite Alliance' meeting holds tomorrow

ABUJA—THE "Granite Alliance" meeting of the presidential candidates of opposition parties, convened by Maj.-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, will hold in Abuja tomorrow.

The meeting is scheduled to discuss issues relating to the coming general elections.

Buhari, the ANPP presidential flag bearer, invited the other presidential candidates to the meeting, with the exception of the PDP presidential candidate.

In the invitation letter dated

April 4, Buhari urged his colleagues to consider the meeting as an "urgent national challenge."

A copy of the letter, made available to newsmen, yesterday, in Abuja, stated that the citizens were eager to effect a change in the country's leadership.

Buhari alleged in the letter that the democratic process in the country was being subverted and put on trial by the managers of the electoral system, the judiciary and other stakeholders.