

2 soldiers, DPO, 8 civilians killed in Tafawa Balewa

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Monday, 23 January 2012 05:00

Two military personnel, a Divisional Police Officer and eight civilians were killed in the early hours of yesterday in an attack launched by gunmen in Tafawa Balewa, the headquarters of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Briefing newsmen over the incidents, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba, said “the attackers had launched an attack aimed at robbing an old generation bank in Tafawa Balewa but were repelled by a combined team of military and police personnel deployed in the area.”

Aduba said confronted by the superior firepower of the security personnel on ground, the gunmen retreated and on their way back they attacked a military checkpoint at Bununu district of the local government, a hotel in the town, a police station and a bank, killing the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), DSP Adeleke, an Army Lance Corporal and eight civilians whose identities were yet to be known.

He said: “The gunmen also on their escape route from Tafawa Balewa attacked a combined police/military personnel at a checkpoint at Mararraba Liman Katagum in Bauchi Local Government Area of the state, where they killed a military personnel after an exchange of fire with the security operatives in the area. They left their vehicle and walked on foot for over one kilometre before they reached the check points.”

The commissioner stated that 10 unexploded Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were recovered at the scene of crime, while six people were arrested by security agents in connection with the attack.

Aduba said the arrested suspects are currently helping the police in their investigation, while efforts have been intensified to round up the fleeing hoodlums.