

Suicide bomber kills 8, injures 30 in Yobe

From Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu

A suicide bomber yesterday detonated a bomb along Jos Road in Potiskum, Yobe State, killing eight people including himself and leaving 30 others injured.

Our correspondent gathered that the bomb went off around 11:00 am after the bomber parked a Honda Civic car close to the Ebal petrol station.

A witness, Mohammed Ibrahim, said: "He parked the car by a vulcaniser's shop very close to the filling station gate. The artisan and a pure water hawker rushed for patronage when the bomb exploded. The girl selling pure water died instantly and the vulcaniser was badly injured," he said.

He said the bomber and four others died on the spot. "The car tore into pieces and the bomber's

waist down to his legs were found inside but the rest of his body was blown off," he added.

Families of the injured were seen at the Potiskum General Hospital while others tried frantically to identify their loved ones.

A hospital source confirmed eight people including the suicide bomber dead.

"Six were brought dead and two others died in the hospital", he said.

Witnesses said the target might have been the temporary motor park where passengers board commercial vehicles to Bauchi, Darazo and Jos.

Our reporter gathered that hawkers, traders and mechanics operating close to the market were most affected. A man taking part in the rescue effort at hospital told the BBC Hausa Service that he saw five bodies, including that of the bomber after the attack.

He said about 30 people were injured. Potiskum town which is located 100 kilometers west of Damaturu, the state capital had come under Boko Haram attack several times. Worshipers in mosques, secondary school students and market areas had been targeted.

Last Sunday, two female suicide bombers targeted a market in the town. That attack, in which four people died and more than 40 were injured, was blamed on Boko Haram.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Marcus Danladi, has urged parents to warn their children against picking glittery objects to avoid falling victim to explosions.

The commissioner who made the call during a political stakeholders' meeting in Damaturu said a policeman picked a well designed glittery

object which exploded in his hand killed him.

"If you see the object you will like it because it is well designed, shiny and beautiful. The officer picked it from the ground and was playing with it when it exploded and damaged his chest. He later died in hospital", he said.

He said another police officer picked the same object to his house but later reported and it was disconnected by the anti-bomb squad.

He advised parents to report any unusual objects found around them and urged political parties to conduct their campaigns peacefully, assuring them of police neutrality in the election. He said political parties should give maximum cooperation to security agencies.

"Let me emphasize, we will arrest anyone found with arms or violates the law at campaign venues," he said.

