

Gunmen kill 12 in Borno market attack

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

NO fewer than 10 gunmen attacked the Maiduguri Monday Market (MAMM) in Maiduguri, Borno State on Wednesday, robbing five traders of the day's take and killing 12 people.

Many people were also injured in the attack, which occurred at about 2.00 p.m.

Also yesterday, another trader was shot dead in the city at about 12.30p.m. No arrests have been made on both incidents.

Also, four gunmen attacked the Potiskum Council Secretariat Complex, Yobe State, carting away undisclosed amount of workers' salaries as account clerks handed out last month's pay to workers.

The gunmen, according to police authority, did not kill anyone in the incident, which occurred at about 3.30 p.m.

Confirming the robbery incident yesterday in

Yobe council loses salary to robbers

Damaturu, Yobe Police Commissioner, Emmanuel Onireti, said the four robbers came on foot.

Onireti said no arrests have been made by the police.

Confirming the Borno attacks yesterday, Spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa, said: "The information at the disposal of the JTF indicated that there was rumour going round Maiduguri metropolis that three people were shot dead by suspected members of the *Boko Haram* sect at the Maiduguri Monday Market at 2.00 p.m. yesterday (Wednesday)."

Musa said this created confusion in the market as traders and patrons scamper for safety and the market was hurriedly closed.

He added that JTF personnel rushed to the market on

hearing of the attack and met sporadic shooting which stopped after about three minutes.

Musa confirmed the death of eight people in the attack.

Consequently, the JTF personnel shut down the market and cordoned it off.

General Manager, MAMM, Alhaji Aja Terab while briefing the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Zannah Mustapha on the attack, said: "This market had to be closed because of the killings of nine Igbo traders and three Kanuris on Wednesday. We had to show concern and mourn the departed traders that were gunned down by suspected armed sect members."

"The market will remain closed, as most of the traders are shocked and grieving over the serial attacks and killings of traders while car-

rying out their legitimate businesses in the market."

However, Musa however attributed the success of the *Boko Haram* operations in Maiduguri to a lack of residents' co-operation with the JTF in providing information on the sect's members.

His words: "It is worrisome that *Boko Haram* terrorists are living in the same community with the people without requisite information that will assist the JTF in arresting them."

He warned that the JTF would "deal ruthlessly with anyone trying to disrupt peace in the state, particularly during the Easter festivities and beyond."

The deputy governor urged residents to co-operate with the JTF by providing information to the security outfit in order to rid Borno of the terrorists.