

## Gunmen kill 13, injure 18 vigilance group members in Borno

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

**B**ARELY three days after killing 15 people at Gajiram in Borno State, suspected *Boko Haram* gunmen shot dead 13 and injured 18 members of the Borno Vigilance Youths Group (BVYG) in Benisheikh town in the early hours of yesterday.

However, troops from 7 Division of the Nigerian Army killed five of the sect members and recovered four rifles and a police bullet-proof vest

at the scene of attacks.

According to a surviving vigilance youth, Mohammed Abur, about 35 of terrorists attacked the town and the convoy of vigilance youths' buses with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs at about 12.30 a.m. and killed 13 youths while 18 others were injured.

He said the injured were taken to a Maiduguri hospital by the Federal Roads Safety Commission (FRSC) yesterday morning.

Speaking on the attack, Abur said: "Initially, we alerted the troops stationed in the town of the presence (of the sect members) and the planned attacks on Saturday morning on Benishiekh from a nearby forest.

"The soldiers on duty at the military post on the Maiduguri-Damaturu Road, however, told us that their patrol vehicles had no fuel to pursue the terror suspects hiding in the forest. On getting soldiers' response, our leader quickly

decided that we contribute N30,000 to refuel their patrol vehicles, as our buses may not be able to ply the bush paths and desert tracks in arresting the armed sect members preparing to launch attacks yesterday morning.

"Six hours after, the soldiers did not pursue the terror suspects, until gunmen numbering about 35 stormed this town, killing and injuring 31 of our members that volunteered to protect lives and property."