

32 feared killed in fresh Borno market blast

From Mohammed Abubakar, Azimazi Momoh Jimoh (Abuja) and Njadvara Musa (Maiduguri)

- **President Buhari tasks ministry on IDPs**
- **Rebuilding N'East a global task, says Saraki**

ABOUT 32 people were yesterday, feared killed at Sabon Gari Market Square in Biu, Borno State in an explosion from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which also injured 41 others.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has directed the Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs to intensify efforts to re-unite families, whose members are currently scattered in different camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Buhari, who expressed particular concern about the well-being of children in the camps, said appropriate mechanisms must be put in place to ensure the proper up-bringing of such children so that they don't grow up to become another national problem.

In another development, Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki, yesterday

took his quest for the urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction of the North-East zone devastated by the Boko Haram insurgents to the international community.

Saraki, while receiving the Ambassador of South Korea, Mr. Noh Kyu-Duk and India High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. A.R. Ghanashyam, who visited him separately in Abuja, said rebuilding the North-East zone has become the responsibility of the global community.

He lamented that the zone currently lacks functional hospitals, schools and other social amenities that make life worth living and specifically called on the two envoys and their countries to assist in the rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts of the Federal Government in the zone, which will immediately follow the seizure of insurgency operations in the area.

According to an eyewitness,

Yohana Malgwi, the explosive devices, which went off at 1:30 p.m. An official of the local vigilante group, Abbas Gava,

confirmed the attack, saying: "Our officials reached Sabon-Gari village from Biu town about two hours after the blast and informed us that about 32 persons were confirmed killed, while over 41 others were seriously injured and were being

taken to the hospital for treatment."

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu quoted the President as speaking after receiving a briefing from the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr. Jamila

Shu'ara.

He also stressed the need for a follow-up on the supervision and audit of constituency projects across the country.

Shu'ara, who said the ministry would work towards ensuring that the Presidential directive was carried, listed some of the challenges of the ministry, which included inadequate funding. Nevertheless, she said the ministry would strive towards meeting the challenges of additional responsibilities entrusted to it.

Similarly, officials of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) led by the Permanent Secretary, John Chukwu, an engineer, also briefed Buhari and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo at the Presidential Villa today. Osinbajo urged the MFCT to explore alternative sources to boost its revenue base and reduce dependence on the currently lean resources of the Federal Government for the development and maintenance of infrastructure in Abuja.



Former Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande (right), Executive Secretary of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Rasak Ajala, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Olabisi Ariyo and one of the 250 beneficiaries of free General Certificate Examination (GCE) forms courtesy of the Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, Alaba Aderonke, yesterday in Lagos.

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