

Yola, Kano terror attacks death toll hits 49

From Abubakar Mohammed (Abuja), Abba Anwar (Kano) and Emmanuel Ande (Yola)

• Buhari urges vigilance to ward off terrorism

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has called for increased vigilance among the civilian population to help ward off suicide terror attacks on soft targets around the country.

Reacting to the renewed wave of terror attacks in some North East states and Kano bombing yesterday, the President in a statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, condemned "in strongest terms the barbaric suicide terrorist attacks which took place in Yola on the evening of Tuesday and in Kano yesterday, causing numerous deaths and injuries among civilians."

The President extended

his heartfelt condolence to the families of the victims as well as to the government and people of Adamawa and Kano states respectively.

Buhari reassured Nigerians that his administration was determined to wipe out *Boko Haram* in Nigeria and bring all perpetrators of these heinous crimes against humanity to justice.

"The President urges all Nigerians not to despair in the face of cowardly terrorist attacks but to have confidence in the ability of Nigeria's reinvigorated, well-equipped and well-motivated armed forces and security agencies to overcome *Boko Haram* very soon."

The suicide bombers

attacked popular Farm Centre GSM Market in Kano killing scores of marketers some minutes before 4 p.m. yesterday.

Meanwhile, the death toll from Tuesday night's suicide bomb attack in Yola, the Adamawa State capital has risen to 34, with 85 other people seriously injured and undergoing treatment in different hospitals in the state.

An eyewitness to the Kano suicide bomb attacks that claimed 15 lives, Sani Umar, who lost a brother, disclosed that two women entered the market from different directions, an adult female and a girl not up to 20 years old.

"One of the suicide bombers had planned to enter into the market mosque when people

raised an alarm. She detonated the bomb there which killed so many people," Umar said.

But according to the Kano Command Police Commissioner, Muhammad Musa Katsina, only three people died with eight injured.

"It was around 3:55 p.m. when a *Sharon* car dropped two women who were later confirmed to be suicide bombers. One entered the market and detonated the explosive, while the other detonated hers at the gate of the market," the Police Commissioner revealed.

Another eyewitness disclosed that people were running helter skelter for their lives.

Immediately after the blasts security men condoned the area while more people were seen helping the officials take control of

the area.

Katsina urged the people to remain calm as everything was being done to return life in the city to normalcy.

When *The Guardian* visited the Yola Specialist Hospital yesterday, the Medical Director, Dr. Bala Idi Saidu, confirmed that there were 29 bodies in the hospital mortuary and that 47 injured people were receiving treatment in the hospital.

"We have 29 bodies in our mortuary and 47 injured victims are now being attended to by a team of medical officials. For now, there are no new cases of death from the attack apart from those that were brought here," he said.

Bala further disclosed that eight children and seven women were among the dead in the hospital.