

# 10 Killed As Explosion Rocks Adamawa IDPs Camp

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**No fewer than 10 persons were killed, while nine others, including four staff of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), sustained various degrees of injuries following a bomb blast at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), camp in Malkoli, Yola, Adamawa State capital on Friday.**

Saturday Independent gathered that the attack was allegedly carried out by a suspected suicide bomber at about 10:50am.

Adamawa State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Gabriel Adaji, who visited the camp, confirmed that the explosion was from an Improvised Explosives Device (I.E.D), adding that the bomber might have sneaked into the camp through the dilapidated fence. He however, added that proper investigation would be carried out to determine how the bomber sneaked into the camp.

C.P Adaji, who confirmed the number of casualties, also said that new IDPs to the camp would be rescreened for proper identification as fingers are being pointed at them. He said that more security would be provided at the camps to reinforce the existing ones.

Speaking to newsmen, the NEMA camp coordinator, Alhaji Saad Bello disclosed that 297 IDPs were brought in Thursday September 10 from Madagali while 17 of them

were also brought from Sambisa forest. He said that the nine injured people, including four of his staff had been conveyed to the Specialist Hospital, Yola.

Meanwhile, reactions have continued to trail the bomb blast as the security agencies were asked to be more vigilant.

The bomb blast is coming at a time President Muhammadu Buhari had said that the Boko Haram insurgents had been decimated and would be completely whipped out in three months.

Buhari had during the swearing-in of new service chiefs charged them "to brace up and continue to team up with other stakeholders, to come up with a well coordinated joint effort which will bring a desired end to these insurgencies within three months".

## Dangerous Gamble

However, former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Chief Olisa Agbakoba, faulted the timeline on defeating Boko Haram.

He said that there was no way the insurgents could be wiped out from the Nigerian soil within the three months that the president gave the military.

Agbakoba told Saturday Independent in an interview that Buhari took a gamble when he announced that the insurgents would be crushed in three months.

The former NBA President said that Nigerians might hold



Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila (left), with Country Coordinator, United Nations Aids, Bilal Camara, during a visit by UNAID to the House Leader at National Assembly in Abuja on Friday.

the president to his words, if eventually the insurgents were not wiped out within the time frame stipulated.

"That is part of the danger in giving a time limit to something as crucial as this. Even though I think he did it to show the Boko Haram people that 'We are really going to get you', it is a gamble that he has taken and hopefully, he can achieve it.

"But, if I were to advise him, I would not have put a time frame. I would have said that in three months, Boko Haram would be sufficiently degraded not to do much harm. I would not have said they would disappear in three months. Having said that, he has better done all he could to degrade Boko Haram in three months."

Although he commended the president for his efforts so far in tackling the security challenges, Agbakoba said that fighting terrorism was not an easy task.

"Buhari is taking the right steps. But, if I were him, I would not have used three months. Fighting terrorism is not easy. If I were in his shoes, all I would have said would be that I could see a more aggressive strategy to combat Boko Haram.

"But, there is no way Boko Haram will be eradicated in three months. Even the Americans have not been able to achieve that in the case of ISIS or Al Qaeda. If it is ended in three months that would be fantastic," Agbakoba said.

On his part, former Vice

President Atiku Abubakar while condemning the attack said that some of his friends were in the camp.

Atiku posted on his Twitter handle that; "The Yola IDP camp is the largest in Nigeria, and refuge to thousands of people who fled the insurgency from Borno and Yobe.

"Many people I know were working as volunteers in the camp, including staff and students of AUN, who sustained minor injuries in today's (Friday) blast.

"Today's attack is an attempt to break the spirits of the people who came to seek refuge. The perpetrators will know no peace.

"We refuse to be broken. We will win the war against terrorism. We shall overcome!"