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4 Die In Jos Viewing Centre Bombing

Achor Abimaje

— May 26, 2014

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) yesterday confirmed that four persons including a suicide bomber died when the bomber detonated an explosive device near a viewing centre around Bauchi road, Jos in Plateau State.

NEMA principal planning officer, north central zone, Muhammed Suleiman who was at the scene of the explosion yesterday told newsmen that they had recovered three bodies on Saturday night while another person was recovered yesterday morning.

Suleiman explained that "Three people sustained injuries and they are presently receiving treatment in the hospital. Two people are at the Al-Ihsan hospital at Anguwan Rogo while another person is at Gambazi hospital at Yanshanu."

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He added that "Immediately we received the distress call that there was an explosion around Bauchi road, close to the Red Cross office, we swung into action. When we arrived, the place was still in flames so the fire service had to put off the fire then together with the Red Cross and other emergency workers we started the search and rescue."

Similarly governor of Plateau State, Jonah Jang in his response to Saturday night bomb blast near a viewing centre located at Bauchi road in Jos city, urged the people of his state to remain courageous and have faith that the war on terrorism will be won.

Jang in his reaction to the blast in the state capital contained in a statement issued by his director of press and affairs, Mr James Manok and made available to newsmen said, "This third bomb blast is a calculated attempt to disrupt the peace and normalcy which has since returned to the state". Jang asked security agents to fish out the perpetrators and their sponsors and bring them to justice.

Also member of the Plateau State House of Assembly Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan yesterday condemned the bomb explosion that claimed four lives close to a viewing center around Bauchi road, Jos in Plateau State describing it as a declaration of war against all Nigerians.

Hassan who spoke at the scene if the explosion commended the community for their security consciousness and bravery adding that "I am impressed with what happened even after the explosion.

"Because the youths came together and helped in the search and rescue. If not for the security consciousness of the youths in the community, the bomber would have achieved his aim of getting to the viewing center and that could have been catastrophic.

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He called on citizens of Plateau state to unite irrespective of ethnic and religious difference to fight a common enemy.

While calling on the State and Federal government to rise up to the present security challenges, the member said "the government has a responsibility of securing lives and properties of every Nigerian."

Similarly Commissioner of Water Resources, Idi Waziri who was also at the scene called on citizens of the state to be extra vigilant about strange faces.

Waziri explained "from what I gathered, based on the plate number from the vehicle, the bomber was not from here. We have to be

vigilant because these people may be dwelling among us.”

The Plateau State Police commissioner, Mr. Chris Olakpe who also confirmed the blast said that four people were killed and three others wounded.

The bomb, he said, was carried by a lone bomber in a car and was heading towards a television viewing centre, the target of his attack.

He added that the bomber was overwhelmed by the presence of youths and security operatives and in a jittery state detonated the bomb before getting to his target.

“I can confirm to you that four people were killed and three others wounded.

The dead included the loan bomber while the injured included one Alhaji Bello and his son, the owner of the house in front of where the bomb went off. They have been taken to the hospital for treatment.

Similarly the state commissioner for information and communication, Barrister Olivia Dazyem in a statement made available to newsmen yesterday said government regrets the loss of lives and sympathizes with the families of the dead and injured and encourages hospitals to attend to the victims promptly as it has decided to settle their medical bills.

It is obvious that the intention of these messengers of anarchy is to break our spirit and set us apart.

We should therefore not allow ourselves to fall into their devious plan but remain united and focused on the Plateau peace project.

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