

Suicide bomber attacks market in Maiduguri

A SUICIDE bomber attacked a cattle market yesterday in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, the city worst-hit in the seven-year insurgency waged by Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

The police said the female bomber, who struck the Kasuwan Sharu market in the central district of Kasuwa, was the only person killed in the blast at about 08:40 a.m.

In a statement, police said a second woman who had a bomb was "lynched by an irate mob in the vicinity". Security forces later detonated her device.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack but it bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram and came days after President Muhammadu Buhari said the jiha-

dist group's key camp in its last remaining enclave had fallen.

Despite having been pushed back to the forest by the army in recent months, the group still stages bombings in the northeast and in neighbouring Niger and Cameroon. A suspected Boko Haram suicide bomber killed two people in Cameroon on Sunday.

The Islamist militant group has killed 15 000 people and displaced more than two million during a seven-year insurgency to create an Islamic state governed by a harsh interpretation of sharia law in the northeast of Africa's most populous nation.

MTN pays N80b of N330b fine