

Five die in Boko Haram attack on Adamawa town

•Troops neutralise insurgents •Bank bombed

THE Police in Adamawa State have confirmed that five residents of Michika died following an attack on a bank in the town on Monday night.

Against earlier impression that the attack was the usual Boko Haram mission of causing a scare and destroying things and killing people and going away, the police command said the insurgents went purposely for a raid on the town's only bank.

The Nation gathered yesterday morning that the insurgents got into the town about 7pm on Monday after overpowering the military unit stationed there.

Witnesses said the insurgents seized control of the town for a while, scaring hundreds of residents, who ran inside the surrounding bushes until soldiers arrived from Madagali after a reinforcement call.

Michika lies in the northern part of Adamawa State, an immediate neighbour to Madagali Local Government

From Blessing Olaifa, Abuja and Onimisi Alao, Yola

Area, which was haunted by Boko Haram insurgents for weeks before the February 16 and March 9 general elections.

During the Monday attack, the insurgents bombed the Union Bank branch - the only banking facility in the town.

Sources said the insurgents also burnt houses in Koppa village as they fled towards Sambisa with soldiers and mobilised local hunters on their trail.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Othman Abubakar, who gave an update on the attack to The Nation, said: "Five people died and the place they went to attack, the Union Bank, was badly destroyed. But they were unable to gain access to the strong room. They couldn't penetrate."

The PPRO said: "Their motive must have been to go

and get money. That would be why they went directly to hit the bank. I was made to understand that money was moved to the bank earlier that day. They must have monitored the bank and went purposely for the money."

He said the insurgents were, however, unable to get to the money, especially as soldiers and other security agents stormed the place and succeeded in forcing the insurgents off and seizing cars and motorcycles they used in entering the town.

He said the five residents who died might have been victims of stray bullets as they ran helter-skelter or directly from the guns of the insurgents.

"They must have died from crossfire and from the sporadic shootings by the insurgents," Othman said.

Some residents were not comfortable yesterday about returning to their homes immediately.

A native of Michika, who lives in Yola, Felicia Jacob, said her mother was on her way to Yola "to rest after the horror of the deadly attack".

But, the Army said yesterday that the troops of 115 Task Force Battalion and 143 Battalion in a two Front coordinated attacks successfully repelled the Boko Haram terrorists, who attacked Michika.

According to the Acting Director of Army Public Relations, Colonel Sagir Musa, scores of Boko Haram terrorists were neutralised during the encounter, with some of them fleeing with gunshot wounds.

Colonel Musa said in a statement issued in Abuja that the terrorists attacked Michika late night on Monday, but were dealt with severely by troops who organised blocking positions against them.

He said the terrorists also hurriedly made away with dead bodies of some of their fighters.

Colonel Musa said: "Boko

Haram terrorists met their Waterloo and suffered heavy casualties yesterday evening, March 18 2019, when they attempted to infiltrate Michika in Adamawa State.

At about 7.20pm, gallant troops of 115 Task Force Battalion deployed at Lassa in Borno State received a distress call from vigilance group at Maikadiri village on movement of suspected Boko Haram terrorists on Maikadiri - Shuwari Road enroute Michika.

The troops immediately organised blocking positions and swooped on the terrorists, which led to an exchange of fire. The terrorists attempted to escape, but were intercepted and suppressed with heavy volume of fire.

Consequently, the troops with reinforcement from 143 Battalion Gulak engaged the terrorists on two front coordinated attacks.

The BHTs were completely routed by the troops, neutralising many of them, while others fled in disarray due to superior firepower."