

26 killed, 36 injured as explosions rock Potiskum, Kano motor parks

JAMES BWALA-MAIDUGURI

ANOTHER explosion has occurred at Tashan-Azare, along Potiskum/Kano road, opposite Alamin Restaurant, killing 20 people, with several others injured.

The explosion, third in less than seven days, Nigerian Tribune gathered on Tuesday, occurred around 12.00 noon.

There was also a similar incident in Kano on Tuesday, when three suicide bombers hit the popular Kano line motor park, located at the Kofar Nassarawa area of Kano city, killing 12 people, while no fewer than five persons sustained varying degrees of injuries.

Confirming the incident, the state Commissioner of Police, Idris Ibrahim, said the attack claimed 12 lives, while those who sustained various degrees of injuries were receiving treatment at hospitals.

Although, there was no one who claimed to have sighted any suspicious person before the explosion in Potiskum occurred, there had been warnings for people to be careful, particularly around motor parks in Potiskum, because of what happened at a motor park in Damaturu and the GSM market, where over 50 people were reportedly killed.

Speaking to residents of Potiskum, Alhaji Kawu Idi, told the Nigerian Tribune on phone that they were, at the time of this report, at the Potiskum General Hospital, checking relations or known faces among the dead and the injured.

According to him, the hospital secretary, Mallam Baba Ali, had confirmed that 14 people died in the blast, including the suicide bomber, while 31 others were critically injured.

He described the attack as unfortunate and un-Islamic, adding that some people, due to ignorance, still saw these attackers as fighting the cause of Allah, but were blinded by the truth that most of the people being killed now by the suicide bombers were traders and workers at the motor park and were mostly Muslims.

Attempts to get police reaction failed, as the state Commissioner of Police, Marcus Danladi, could not be reached, even on phone.

According to an eyewitness, the Kano incident occurred at about 3.15 p.m,

when three suicide bombers walked into the motor park, disguising as passengers trying to board vehicle to an unknown destination.

The source further disclosed that the suicide bombers, who were between ages 17 and 18 years, carried bags on their backs and mingled with passengers who were about travelling to different destinations.

He added that two of

them stood by the side of an Urvan bus, which was loading passengers at the time and detonated the bomb, killing themselves and 10 other passengers who were severely burnt.

Pandemonium rocked the motor park, with the third suspected suicide bomber immediately escaping to an unknown destination.

Three vehicles at the scene of the incident were burnt

, while the green Sharon bus with the registration number Kano WDL 314AA, which brought passengers from one of the villages had them trying to disembark at the very spot where the two suspected suicide bombers were before the bomb concealed in their bodies were detonated.

While speaking at the scene of the incident, the Kano state Commissioner

of Police, Idris Ibrahim, said "by the time we rushed here, we discovered that there was a bomb blast at Kano motor park, Kofar Nassarawa area of the city. Detailed investigation will continue."

As of the time of filing this report, the entire area had been cordoned off by security operatives, which included the police, soldiers and other uniform men.



Gridlock on Kubwa-Abuja Expressway in Abuja, on Tuesday. PHOTO: NAN

El-Rufai's free education offer deceitful —PDP

MUHAMMAD SABIU-KADUNA

PROMISE made by Mallam Nasir El-Rufa'i, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kaduna State, that education would be free if he eventually becomes the governor, has been described as deceitful, saying it was just a ploy to exploit the gullibility of the people and win votes.

El-Rufa'i had, in a recent interview with newsmen, said his children and that of other public servants in the state would attend public schools if elected governor.

In a swift reaction to his claim, a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state, Alhaji Ahmad Hassan Rufa'i, said the good people of Kaduna State should not be deceived by the rantings of the APC governorship hopeful.

He wondered how his dream would be realised when most of them would not want their children in

public schools.

El-Rufa'i, therefore, counselled the politician to stop resorting to making phantom promises that could not be achievable.

El-Rufa'i, he alleged, was now desperate for power in the state and had forgotten that the people of Kaduna were enlightened enough to judge from among those who could provide sincere leadership in the state, devoid of the antics of desperate politicians.

According to him, although education in the state was

not completely free, the incumbent administration had provided palliatives and an enabling learning environment in public schools that made it so easy to enroll in government-owned schools at all levels.

Kaduna State, he said never had it so good in the education sector, because the Yero-led administration had not only revamped schools and made teaching profession exciting through regular training and incentives to teachers, it had also afford-

ed students from underprivileged background the opportunity to enjoy scholarships and pursue courses of their choice within and outside the country.

This development, he said was unprecedented. His words: "How can Mallam El-Rufa'i say that his children, that of political appointees and top civil servants will go to public schools if he becomes governor? Since when has he been in government and his children never attended public schools?"

Nigerian Airforce attacks terrorists hideouts

CHRIS AGBAMBU - ABUJA

THE Nigerian military in well-coordinated operations, which involved the Airforce and ground troops, have maintained the momentum over Boko Haram terrorists in the last few weeks.

A top military source disclosed to the *Nigerian Tribune* that the massive air operations had destroyed some of the terrorists' hideouts around Baga, Gwoza, Sambisa, Bama and Pulka.

The source added that terrorists were in com-

plete disarray from their hideouts, under hay of aerial bombardments by the Nigerian military aircraft.

Troops were also still on search operations, while more terrorists were being arrested and interrogations ongoing.