

Many killed in Borno, Adamawa mosque bomb attacks

JAMES BWALA - MAIDUGURI
WITH AGENCY REPORT

SCORES of people were killed, on Friday, in separate bomb attacks in Maiduguri, Borno State and Yola, Adamawa State.

While 23 persons were killed in an early morning explosion in a mosque near a Federal High Court in Jiddari Polo, Maiduguri, 27 persons were killed while 98 others were injured after a bomb went off during Juma'at service at a new central mosque in the Jambutu area of Yola.

The first incident occurred at about 5.15 a.m., during the *Fajr* (dawn) prayer.

Before the incident, believed to be the 15th of such attack on mosques within Maiduguri in three months, it was gathered that many Muslim men had resorted to praying indoors instead of joining the congregation in the mosque.

Residents told *Saturday Tribune* that a suspected mastermind of the Friday attack in Maiduguri was killed by soldiers while attempting to plant another bomb.

A member of the civilian JTF, Malam Sallah Tukur, said the suspect was identified by residents as having been lurking around the mosque since Thursday afternoon.

A popular butcher in the area, Ahmadu Gwoza, was named among the victims of the attack.

"Twenty-three persons were killed in the blast this morning. We have taken some of the corpses to the state specialist hospital and others to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital," Tukur said.

Residents have expressed worry over the spate of bomb attacks on mosques in the city and called on the government to arrest the situation.

"As far as I know, 15 mosques have been attacked between August and October in Maiduguri and each of the attacks killed no less than 20 persons. This is

worrisome. It requires government's urgent action," a resident of Jiddari Polo, Ibrahim Garba, said.

"Like many other Muslims, I no longer pray in the mosque for fear of being killed. I have advised my children not to go to the mosque to pray because you never know where these people come from or when they plant their bombs," he added.

The second blast at Jambutu, Yola, Adamawa State, suspected to be from a suicide bomber, occurred at about 2.00 p.m. after the Imam of the new central mosque had finished the sermon for the Juma'at service.

"It was a young boy who attempted to get into the mosque when the explosive went off.

"It is a new Friday mosque. This is the first Friday prayer to be offered in the mosque.

"Over 100 people have so

far been evacuated to hospital but I can't say how many among them are dead," a witness, who identified himself simply as Umaru, said.

The police spokesman in the state, DSP Othman Abubakar and Executive Secretary, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), Alhaji Haruna Furo, confirmed the incident and said rescue effort was still going on.

They said that the number of casualty was yet to be ascertained.

"We are now evacuating those affected to Yola Specialist Hospital and Federal Medical Centre," Furo said.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reports that the blast was the third in Yola within the past six months.

The first incident was near Yola central market, followed by the one at Malkohi Internally Displaced Persons camp.

ki won
licly

by the
esin
inqu
wou
tuti
Ib
LAN

THI
grou
Mbe
on l
call

Lea
whe
plan
hon

for
and
Ad

Min
of t
Mor

they
thar
serv

peo
the
tion
stat
lead

ongoing trial at the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT), Saraki said that what is to be done has been highlighted in the constitution.

"Is that what the law says?

What is to be done has been highlighted in the constitution. The Senate President cannot advise his colleagues to do anything other than what the law says. The law requires every senator to declare his assets and show evidence of that before being sworn in as senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That is

but senators have often insisted on fulfilling the law, without a recourse to public declaration of assets.

President Muhammadu Buhari had made public declaration of assets a campaign issue but he has only so far issued a statement indicating details of his asset declaration.

The presidency said last week that the president was not about to compel ministers to declare their assets publicly.

Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Ad-