

legedly corrupt politicians

Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, (third left front row) with members of the National Patriots Movement of Nigeria during their visit to the former president in Abeokuta, Ogun State, on Friday.

How female suicide bomber pursued fuel-laden tanker •9 killed, 24 injured

**BODUNRIN KAYODE-
MAIDUGURI**

A mass casualty would have been recorded if a female suicide bomber has succeeded in carrying out her dastardly act in Maiduguri, Borno state on Saturday morning. The female suicide bomber was in a tricycle with the driver pursuing a fuel-laden tanker apparently to detonate the bomb beside the tanker and cause massive explosion and destruction. But before she could achieve her aim and get close to

the tanker the tricycle was blocked by an oncoming vehicle and within minutes, the bomb on her exploded. All these happened very close to a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) fuel station in the Borno state capital.

About nine persons were feared dead, with 24 others injured in the blast and another one which rocked the city that morning.

Commissioner of Police, Demien Chukwu, in a briefing told newsmen that all the injured have been evacuated

to various hospitals including the state specialist hospital for treatment.

In addition, some of the injured persons from the two scenes of explosions were also taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) due to the nature of their injuries.

When the **Sunday Tribune** visited the area after the blast, people residing around Damboa Road area of the state capital and Bakassi IDP camp said the explosion disturbed their early morn-

ing bliss at a time which they thought the security situation was getting better in the state.

According to Colonel Mustapha Anka who is the Public Relations Officer of the 7 Division of the Nigeria Army: "about 7.05 a.m this morning, there were twin simultaneous suicide bomb explosions at the entrance of Bakassi Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp and NNPC area, Damboa Road, Maiduguri.

"At the Bakassi IDPs camp, a suspected female suicide

bomber ran into a group of men and women at the entrance while they were coming out of the camp, killing five men instantly and injuring 11 women.

"At the second explosion at the NNPC Area of Damboa Road, a female suicide bomber was said to have followed a fuel tanker in a tricycle with the sole aim of gaining entry to cause maximum damage and casualty, but was prevented from gaining access to the station by another vehicle."