

22 killed, 28 injured in multiple suicide bombings in Borno

NO fewer than 22 persons were killed and 28 others injured in multiple suicide bombings at a market in Konduga Local Government Area of Borno.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reported that the incident occurred on Friday at about 9pm, when three suicide bombers detonated explosives at the "KasuwarKifi" in the outskirts of Konduga town.

A witness, Idrissa Bana, said the three suicide bombers simultaneously detonated the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on their bodies in the crowded market.

He said the explosives killed 22 persons, and 28 others sustained injuries, adding that those injured were evacuated to a hospital in Maiduguri.

"There were a lot of people doing last-minute shopping, when the suicide bombers hit the market," he said.

A security source confirmed the incident, adding that, at the moment, the identity of the suicide bombers and exact number of casualties could not be ascertained.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army on Friday dismissed as "misleading" reports indicating that the Boko Haram factional leader, Abubakar Shekau, escaped to Cameroun.

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Sani Kukasheka, in a statement issued in Maiduguri, said the army was not aware of the whereabouts of the fugitive Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau.

Kukasheka said the army

was in a manhunt for Shekau, adding that N3 million had been offered as reward for credible information that would lead to his arrest.

"The attention of the Nigerian Army has been drawn to a story on some news medium, alleging that the wanted factional terrorists' group leader, Abubakar Shekau, is in Kolofata, Republic of

Cameroun.

"The report alleged that a top Boko Haram commander, Abdullahi Bello, alias Abu Zainab, who was captured by the Nigerian Army on February 14, disclosed that Shekau escaped to Cameroun.

"This is not true; the Nigerian Army did not arrest such person, neither do we have such suspect in our custody."

Lagos APC reps endorse Ambode for second term

BOLA BADMUS - LAGOS

MEMBERS of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the House of Representatives from Lagos State on Saturday endorsed the State Governor, Mr Akinwunmi Ambode for a second term in office, citing the massive infrastructural development and giant strides in all sectors and sections of the State.

The APC Caucus in the House led by the Majority Leader, Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila, who presented a letter to the governor at Lagos House in Alausa, Ikeja asking him to re-contest in 2019, said the decision to unanimously endorse Governor Ambode for a second term was as a result of his brilliance performance in office in the last two and half years.

Speaking to Government House correspondents after a closed-door meeting with the governor, Gbajabiamila said the lawmakers were indeed proud to associate with the achievements of the governor so far, and would be supporting him all the way for another term in office.

"We are members of the

House of Representatives APC caucus from Lagos State. We all came into Lagos today to perform a very unique and sacred duty; something we did not take very lightly at all; something we deliberated over a couple of days ago and we spoke with one voice.

"Because of the giant strides of our amiable Governor, Mr Akinwunmi Ambode in the last two and a half years in governing the State; because of the things he has done across board, across all the Local Government Areas, across different sectors, we sat together and we decided without a dissenting voice to seek his audience and endorse him for re-election in 2019 as the Governor of Lagos State," he said.

The House Leader, who described the endorsement as history repeating itself as the Caucus was the first to endorse the governor for election in 2015, said it was instructive that there was not a single dissenting voice in the decision to support Governor Ambode for re-election.

"This is a very unique occasion because we have said all we need to say behind closed doors but they are worth repeating. Ordinarily, some of us have been in this business for long time and

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