

# ① After military reclaims Marte, bomb blasts rock Maiduguri

## ·Many feared dead

Jacob Segun Olatunji | Abuja

**R**ESIDENTS of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, were sent into panic mode as multiple bomb explosions rocked various communities on Tuesday. According to Channels TV, mostly hit by the explosions launched by suspected Boko Haram terrorists were Ngomari, Gwange, Layin Bori, Mairi and Bulabulin communities.

The explosions claimed

several casualties, as people were seen being taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

The terrorists were suspected to have sneaked into Ngomari through Kaleri, forcing residents to scamper for safety, leaving mosques and streets deserted.

Tuesday's explosions came not long after the Nigerian troops had flushed out terrorist groups from Marte, also in Borno State and killed scores of fighters of the Islamic West Africa Province (ISWAP)/ Boko

Haram terrorists.

In hitting back, a team of special forces, headed by one Lieutenant-Colonel Ponfap Wuyep, Commander, 195 Battalion, Jere, engaged the terrorists around Baram Karwa community, forcing the terrorists to retreat.

A military officer told *Nigerian Tribune* at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja, on Tuesday that this was in line with the ultimatum of the Chief of Army Staff, Major-General Ibrahim Attahiru, during his recent visit to the

troops to wipe out Boko Haram terrorists from Marte and other communities in Borno State in 48 hours.

He further explained that the troops successfully and safely detonated series of IEDS laced along the routes and finally dominated the general area after neutralising scores of the criminal elements.

② According to the source, "new Marte effectively in our hands since 3.00 p.m. Our will and determination are unshaken. We are ever determined not to let our service

chiefs and the nation down."

It was gathered that apart from landmines, the terrorists' infiltration of the civilian population in Marte prevented the Military Air Task Force from launching aerial bombardments so as to avoid collateral damages.

Recall that Major-General Attahiru, on Sunday, issued a 48-hour deadline for troops to clear terrorists from Marte and adjoining villages, including Kirenowa, kirta, Wulgo, Chikingudo communities of in Borno State.

The Chief of Army staff who undertook a surprise operational visit to Dikwa to commend commanders and troops for protecting the town, had assured them of the needed support to carry out the task, which he said must be done within 48 hours.

It was also gathered that the General Officer Commanding 7 Division of the Army, Major-General Abdul-Khalifa, commended commanders and troops in that axis for thwarting the attempt by terrorists to takeover Dikwa.

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