

Osinbajo visits Maiduguri as multiple bombings kill 18

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Kayode Idowu, Maiduguri

No fewer than 18 persons, including three suicide bombers were killed while 24 others were injured on Wednesday night in multiple suicide attacks in some parts of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Damian Chukwu, disclosed this at a press briefing, saying the attacks were carried out by three female suicide bombers.

Chukwu said, “There were multiple suicide bomb attacks by suspected Boko Haram terrorists as three female suicide bombers detonated IEDs strapped on their bodies.

“The first explosion occurred at about 1835hrs in a mosque at Goni Kachallari village, Jere Local Government Area, on the outskirts of Maiduguri. The bomber blew herself up when Muslim faithful were coming out from the mosque. The bomber and six others died, while 18 others were wounded.”

According to him, the second incident happened at about 2120 when another female bomber stormed the premises of the Chad Basic Development Authority, Maiduguri and detonated the IED on her body.

The bomber and three others died.

“The third bomber blew herself up across the road outside the Chad Basic Development Authority, killing one person and herself. The Police Explosive Ordnance Device teams were promptly dispatched to the scenes to sanitise and render the area safe,” he added.

The commissioner urged members of the public to supply military and security personnel with information that could help put an end to insurgency.

Meanwhile, less than 24 hours after the attacks, the acting President, Yemi Osinbajo, arrived in Maiduguri on Thursday for a one-day official visit, defying the presumed security threat in the state.

The acting President, who was in the state to declare open the distribution of 30,000 metric tonnes of assorted grains for the Internally Displaced Persons in the North-East, landed at the Maiduguri International Airport in a presidential jet at about 12.30pm.

He was received by the Borno State Governor, Kashim Shettima, members of the state executive council, traditional rulers and politicians.

It was observed that security was beefed up across the town, with heavily armed security personnel from the army, navy, air force, police, DSS, immigration and other para-military agencies were deployed in major roads and streets.

Similarly, several Armoured Personnel Carriers and armoured tanks were equally stationed on all the roads where the acting President was expected to pass, with assault helicopters and military fighter jets providing aerial surveillance.

Commercial and social activities in the town were paralysed.

Shortly after his arrival, the acting President went straight to the palace of the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Garbai El-Kanemi, where he paid the monarch homage.

Osinbajo told the monarch that the distribution of grains was part of the Federal Government's intervention to address the feeding problem of the IDPs.

The acting President later moved to the store of the National Emergency Management Agency to inspect the grains and from there he proceeded to the Bakassi IDP camp to also declare open a similar grain distribution programme.