

Five killed as terrorists bomb Maiduguri airport areas ahead Buhari's visit

Stephen Angbulu and
Dogara Bitrus

NO fewer than five persons died during multiple bomb explosions in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, ahead of the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (ret'd.)'s visit

Zamfara commissioner resigns, picks Uzodinma's appointment

Maiharaji Altine Gusau

THE Zamfara State Commissioner for Women and Children, Rabi Shinkafi, has confirmed that she has resigned her position as a member of the state executive council.

This was contained in a statement pasted on her Facebook page in reaction to rumours that she resigned due to some friction between her ministry and the office of the First Lady of the state.

"The truth is that I actually resigned my appointment as a commissioner in Zamfara State, but not for the reasons that there was a friction between the First Lady and myself," Shinkafi stated.

But she confirmed that she had picked another appointment as a commissioner in Imo State.

She stated, "I was actually appointed a commissioner by my state governor by birth, Senator Hope Uzodinma, almost the same time my state governor by marriage, Dr Bello Matawalle Maradun, also appointed me a commissioner in Zamfara State."

"Don't forget that prior to that, I was already serving under the government of His Excellency, Governor Bello Matawalle Maradun, as Special Adviser on Investment and Public Private Partnership."

"I decided to pick Zamfara's commissioner offer against that of Imo, because of my close relationship with His Excellency Governor Bello Matawalle, and his wife, the Zamfara State First Lady, Hajia Aisha Bello Matawalle, who I both see as my family, and I have

to the state on Thursday.

The bombs landed at different parts of the city not far from the Maiduguri airport at 10:45am before the President arrived at the airport at about 11:40am

A resident of Ajilari Cross area of the metropolis, Maina Mohammed, told one of

correspondents that a bomb exploded very close to his house killing a lady and injuring two young boys.

"It dropped in my area. I am there right now. It killed an 18-year-old girl and injured two young boys," Mohammed said.

Another resident of the city,

His Royal Highness the oldest monarch in Imo State and the Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodinma, who is also quite close to His Excellency Governor Bello Matawalle as a fellow APC governor, pleaded with me to serve in Imo State.

"However, I kept His Excellency Governor Bello Matawalle in the picture from the onset. In fact, both Governor Hope Uzodinma and Governor Bello Matawalle discussed it at a certain stage."

"I had to resign as I cannot be a commissioner in two states at the same time."

enjoyed a lot of their goodwill and benevolence over the years.

"In fact, they have always been my benefactors and I am eternally grateful to them."

"The real reason I resigned my appointment as a commissioner in Zamfara State is never connected to any ill-feeling or dissatisfaction of any kind on the part of His Excellency the governor, who has treated me favourably, or on the part of Her Excellency the First Lady, who has been absolutely wonderful to me."

"I resigned my Zamfara appointment because my father,



•L-R: Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Lagos State Security Trust Fund, Dr Abdurrazaq Balogun; Board Chairman, LSSTF, Mr Kehinde Durosini-Etti; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat; Assistant Inspector General of Police in-charge of Zone 2 Command, Adeleke Adeyinka; and Commissioner of Police, Lagos Command, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, during the 15th annual Town Hall meeting on Security in Lagos... on Wednesday. Photo: Lagos State Government House

Umar Tijani, said a bomb was dropped at a mosque in the Umaru Shehu Hospital but did not affect anybody.

He added that there were other explosions at 1,000 Housing and 707 Housing estates within the metropolis.

Tijani stated, "A bomb was dropped at a mosque in Umaru Shehu Hospital but there was nobody in the mosque."

"There were also other bombs that were dropped at 707 and 1,000 Housing Estates. They destroyed houses in those estates and killed four people."

The explosions took place in areas close to the Maiduguri Airport and the Nigerian Air Force base where the President landed to inaugurate projects in the state.

Addressing troops of troops of Operation Hadin Kai in Maiduguri, Buhari urged them to stay focused to achieve the strategic goal of their campaign; the defeat of all adversaries.

The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, disclosed this in a statement titled, 'We're in final phase of campaign against insurgency and other forms of criminalities—President Buhari.'

While condoling with families that lost loved ones during the explosions, and the wounded, Buhari said, "I urge you also to stay focused to achieve our strategic end, which is the defeat of all adversaries and restoration of an economically viable North-East geo-political zone and other parts of the country where Nigerians are free to go about their activities without fear of harassment."

He assured families of soldiers who paid the supreme price for the nation and the injured that the Federal Government would cater for their needs.

The President stated, "Your career is like no other because it is a conscious commitment and preparedness to give your best for

the sake of others.

"I am therefore here on behalf of a grateful nation to thank and commend you for your service and sacrifices."

"Let me start by commiserating with you all on the unfortunate loss of Brigadier General Dzarma Zirkushu and other personnel of 25 and 28 Task Force Brigades, who died on November 13, 2021."

According to him, the government will continue to ensure that the widows and children of fallen heroes are well catered for, to help them fully realise their potentials.

The President noted that the response exhibited across the theatre had shown extraordinary resilience and steadfastness in the face of adversity.

"That is the spirit, tenacity and resolve that the Nigerian Armed Forces is known for. Well done. Our country, just like all the others in the Sahel region, is faced with several security challenges that are largely characterised by the violent activities of non-state actors."

"This has necessitated several interventions aimed at ensuring the security of persons and property across the numerous hot spots."

"Further to the reorganisations in the military leadership, concerted efforts are being made to improve your equipment holding. I am aware that you have started receiving some of the platforms procured by our administration while others would be received in the weeks ahead," the President added.

While noting threats posed by criminals through the employment of improvised explosive devices, he said substantial resources had also been directed at procuring equipment for explosive ordnance disposal department.

According to Buhari, similar attention is being given to intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance assets.

Ogun, WHO vaccinate

88 North-East bandits terrorists killed in two weeks. DUC