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Two suicide bombers, 10 others killed in Kano blast

BY OUR REPORTER ON FEBRUARY 25, 2015

NATIONAL

Jonathan, Mu'azu condemn Boko Haram

From Desmond Mgboh/Kano, and JULIANA TAIWO-OBALONYE, Abuja

Two bombers and 10 others were killed at a busy motor park in Kano yesterday as President Goodluck Jonathan and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Chairman, Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu condemned the attacks which also occurred in Potiskum, Yobe State.

In the Kano incident, the victims, many of whom were burnt beyond recognition by the blast, included the two persons suspected to have detonated the bomb.

An unspecified number of passengers were injured and rushed to hospital by the policemen and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) personnel.

The explosion occurred at the old Kano Line motor-park, (Karota motorpark), which is located along Kofar Nassarawa area, triggering anxiety in the state capital.

The park is a traffic hub for passengers travelling to and from different parts of the country, including those coming from the North. When *Daily Sun* visited the park, angry youths milled around the scene. Police Commissioner Ibrahim K. Idris confirmed that 12 persons died, noting that the injured have been taken to the hospital.

He said, "at about 3pm, a Sharon bus drove into the park from Wudil Side of the state. It came with about six passengers and drove into the motor-park.

"From what the management of the motor-park are saying, the vehicle had no manifest, which indicated that the vehicle must have been this sort of motorists that pick up passengers on the road, rather than



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from any known park.

"The Sharon bus entered the park and parked in between two vehicles, a Golf car on one side and a bus," he added.

"As soon as the passengers were about to alight from the bus, the two suicide bombers whom I believe are right inside the vehicles blew up the devices," he said.

"So far, those that died in those three vehicles are 12, although we have people with minor injuries who have been rushed to the hospital," he noted.

CP Idris confirmed the police have commenced investigation into the tragedy², noting that the park officials responsible for the screening of vehicles at the point of entry may have failed to do so.

He pledged to liaise with the management of the park as well as other motorparks in the state to warn their members on the dangers of picking passengers outside designated motorparks. He said the suicide bombers might have been picked up on the road and not from any motorpark.

Meanwhile, President Jonathan has condemned the reversion by Boko Haram to the callous bombing of soft targets in part of the country following the ongoing rapid recovery by gallant Nigerian troops and their multinational allies of areas formerly controlled by the sect.

He described the resort to bombing as act of desperation of those facing extinction.

In a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abati, the President commiserated with the bereaved families. According to the statement, "the President shares the grief of all the bereaved families and is deeply saddened by the continued loss of many innocent lives at the hands of misguided and desperate fanatics who are now feeling the heat of the intense counter –insurgency operation by the Nigerian Armed Forces.

"The President assures all Nigerians and the people of the North-Eastern states in particular that the days of mourning victims of incessant terrorist attacks in the country will soon be over as the tide has now definitely turned against Boko Haram.

"President Jonathan further assures the people of Nigeria that the gallant, courageous and patriotic officers and men of the Nigerian Armed Forces, supported with new platforms, equipment and logistics provided by the Federal Government will carry the ongoing operations against the terrorists through to a successful conclusion in the shortest possible time.

"He affirms that his administration will continue to take all necessary action to guarantee the success of ongoing military operations against the terrorist group and drastically reduce its ability to take and hold territory or recruit, groom and brainwash young persons to undertake suicide bombing attacks on soft targets".

In a related development, Alhaji Mu'azu also lambasted Boko Haram over attacks on innocent Nigerians in Kano town and Potiskum in Yobe State yesterday.

PDP National Publicity Secretary, Olisa Metuh, in a statement, said the party was "deeply saddened by the news of the attacks in the two cities, which claimed the lives of harmless citizens going about their legitimate endeavours.

"Indeed, the PDP mourns. We are deeply pained by these attacks on our citizens. Our hearts and prayers go out to the bereaved and the wounded. We share in their pain and pray that those behind their grief must not escape justice," the party said.

Insisting that the attacks cannot be justified under any guise, the party urged Nigerians not to be deterred but remain united and continue to support the Federal Government in the war against terrorism. The PDP commiserated with the families of those who lost their lives and prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the losses.

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