

at ntre

ately we got information we sent our men to assess and confirm that there were improvised explosive devices and to ensure that people were safe. We had to detonate it.

"We are trying to get whatever information we can. Whoever was responsible, we don't know, but what I can confirm is that nobody was injured and everywhere is safe and election is going on smoothly all over. So I am on routine checks. We have provided adequate security everywhere."

Also speaking on the explosion, the Commandant of the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps in the state, Steven Lar, said there were traces of blood at the scene but no corpses or injured persons.

sun

of the machines malfunctioned and failed to capture the voters' thumbprints in most parts of the wards and polling units.

Speaking with newsmen in Ora Igbomina, Nigeria's Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Dr. Yemi Farounmbi, applauded the peaceful conduct of the electorate, saying, "Nigeria cannot afford to fail the world."

Prof. Sola Adeyeye, senator representing Osun Central, also commended the voters and the use of the card reader, saying the process was swift, reliable and less cumbersome.

A resident Haruna Dukku said that the insurgents entered Dukku about 11 am as voters were being accredited.

residents although accreditation and voting were reported to have gone on smoothly in other parts of the state.

28 killed in Borno, Yobe terrorist attacks

FROM TIMOTHY OLANREWaju, MAIDUGURI

No fewer than 28 people have been killed in separate attacks on two communities in Borno and Yobe States by Boko Haram insurgents.

A group of Boko Haram fighters believed to have fled military bombardment in Gwoza, attacked Buratai in Biu Local Government, south of Borno yesterday morning, killing 25 people.

Sources said the insurgents rode to the community, which is about 200 kilometres to Maiduguri, the Borno state capital at about 4am yesterday. A security source told *Sunday Sun* that the insurgents set fire on houses and smoked out people before opening fire on them as they fled from their homes.

Gov Kashim Shettima while confirming the attack described it as sad. He said the Boko Haram men are callous but expressed hope the area would "soon overcome the evil" of insurgency.

The governor said he received a report from the town that 25 people were killed by Boko Haram during the attack, adding that his commissioner of education attended the burial of the deceased on behalf of the government.

Shettima told journalists in Maiduguri after casting his votes that at least, five people were injured and were already in the hospital receiving treatment.

In neighbouring Yobe State, three people were reportedly shot dead at Ngalda, a remote community in Fika Local Government on their way to a polling unit.

Sources said, some Boko Haram way-laid the three men who were going to Ngalda to vote. "The insurgents shot the three men and burnt a car who ran into the scene minutes later," a source in Potiskum some few kilometres away who did not want his name in print told *Sunday Sun* on phone.

Meanwhile, Borno State government has lifted the 7pm to 6am curfew imposed on the city since mid 2014 following increasing Boko Haram attacks.

A statement signed by the Secretary to Borno State Government, Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda said the lifting of the curfew was to allow voters return home after voting at various polling units.

"The Borno State Government has lifted existing curfew in Maiduguri for the whole of tonight in order to ease the return of voters, especially internally displaced persons, who were compelled to trek long distances to polling units due to restrictions on vehicular movements.

"The government is concerned that hundreds of patriotic citizens that made intense efforts to exercise their rights could be held by the curfew and as result the curfew has been lifted for the whole of tonight," the statement said.