

# Suicide bombers kill one in Maiduguri, injure 2

• Violence promoters are enemies of peace - Sultan

From **Timothy Olanrewaju**, Maiduguri and **Fred Ezeh**, Abuja

**RESIDENTS** of Maiduguri, Borno State capital kept awake from sporadic blasts from a group of suicide bombers, who attempted to invade the commercial city, but detonated explosive devices, killing a civilian JTF member, while two persons were also injured.

Many residents, who described the incident as "a night of loud sounds," said they were apprehensive throughout the night and were unsure of the actual situation until dawn.

At dawn, they discovered that a suicide bomber targeting a security outpost at Usmanti, outskirts of Maiduguri in the early hours of yesterday blew up himself after he was gunned down by vigilant security personnel.

Northeast zonal spokesman of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Abdulkadir Ibra-

him, who confirmed the incident, however, said there was no casualty aside the male suicide bomber.

"The second one occurred during the morning (Muslim) prayer at about 5:30 a.m. This involved two suicide bombers; one female and the other male. They were trying to enter a mosque while prayer was on but they were spotted early enough by Civilian JTF situated there.

He continued: "While they were being accosted, they blew the IEDs which killed the bombers and one Civilian JTF. Two people were also injured," NEMA said.

Borno State Police Commissioner, Damian Chukwu in his account said the first explosion by a male suicide bomber occurred at about 12 midnight while the second bomber was shot dead at about 5:00am, and added that the third incident, which killed a CJTF member at Kaleri, a Maiduguri

suburb, happened at exactly 5.30am.

The attacks came barely a week after twin explosions at the University of Maiduguri killed five, including a professor of veterinary medicine, Aliyu Manu.

Commenting on the Boko Haram attack at Askira-Uba in the Southern part of the state early in the week, Chukwu said reports from his men in the area indicated that the insurgents abducted seven people. He however said he was yet to cross-check the veracity of the report.

In a related development, Justice Binta Nyako of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court has granted bail to four suspected Boko Haram members in the sum of N1 million each.

This was after the suspects, who were arrested by the combine military team in 2014 in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State have spent two years in custody without any charge filed

against them by the Federal Government.

Meanwhile, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, has suggested that security operatives unearth and arrest religious leaders, irrespective of faith and status, who are found to be fanning ember of violence, including those encouraging reprisal attacks, describing them as enemies of peace.

The Sultan, who spoke in Abuja, yesterday, at the opening ceremony of a two-day conference organised by the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) on the theme, "Coordinate to achieve to-inclusive and sustainable inter-religious dialogue in Nigeria" encouraged Nigerians to be hopeful and continually work for peaceful co-existence among Nigerians of diverse faith.

National President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Samuel Ayokunle, represented by Bishop Stephen Adegbite, welcomed the conference and expressed willingness of Christians to assist in preaching peace.