

In another operation in the state yesterday, the Nigerian troops disclosed that it killed four insurgents and lost three soldiers and two members of the Civilian Joint Task Force during gun battles. Speaking on the suicide bombers, a popular voice in Bama community, Alhaji Abba Bukar Abba Masta, disclosed that the suicide bombers, a male and female, struck around 5:15am in a mosque when Muslim faithful were observing Morning Prayer. Eye witnesses, however, believed that the number of casualties could be higher. The injured had since been taken to hospitals as a result of varying degrees of injuries. Abba Masta, in a Facebook post said that, "several casualties were recorded."

He said that the community was in urgent need of emergency medical response and transportation to secondary health facilities in Maiduguri for the survivors. He added: "Presently, there is no ambulance in Bama to aid transportation of the survivors. We're right now moving towards the military 21 brigade for possible assistance." He further stated that police Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team and members of Civilian Joint Task Force were already at the scene.

The attack came barely a month after the people of Bama were returned to their community by the Borno State government. In another development, the Nigerian Army yesterday said its troops killed four Boko Haram insurgents in a separate operation in Borno State.

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.- Gen. Texas Chukwu, said: "Troops of 25 Task Force Brigade on operation LAFIYA DOLE have neutralized three members of the Boko Haram terrorists following an attack on the troops. Unfortunately, three soldiers lost their lives during the encounter. Also, two members of the Civilian Joint Task Force were neutralised in the exchange of fire."