

3 Killed As Explosion Rocks Bauchi

A police sergeant, were reportedly killed in separate attacks as suspected gunmen opened fire on a Divisional Police Headquarters and bombed a new generation bank, carting away large sums of money, Friday night, in Yana town of Misau Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

A team of army personnel was said to have later killed one of the gunmen in an exchange of fire at a check point along Azare highway. The attack came barely four days after a bomb explosion at a hotel in Bayan Gari in Bauchi metropolis injured four persons.

This is as a retired director of State Security Service, Mr Adams Abuh, yesterday gave reasons why, compared with the ease with which the first Islamic fundamentalist group, Maitatsine, was eradicated in the 1980's, it was proving so difficult to annihilate Boko Haram. He also faulted the pardon granted the Niger Delta militants and called for a general amnesty for anyone with arms to encourage them to turn them in.

Reports indicate that the gunmen in Bauchi, whose numbers could not be ascertained immediately, were said to have attacked the Divisional Police Headquarters and set it ablaze before hurling explosives at the bank, damaging the building. The State Commissioner of Police, Mallam Mohammed Ladan, who confirmed the incident on phone said he was yet to ascertain the level of damage.

Meanwhile, a retired SSS director, Abuh, yesterday in Abuja attributed the toughness

From Patrick Ugeh in Abuja and Segun Awofadeji in Bauchi

of the battle to end the menace of Boko Haram to the radicalisation of members of the sect and their strategy of operating in cells instead of large groups. He also called for a general amnesty for anyone with arms to encourage them to turn them in.

"The Federal Government should amend the Amnesty programme to national amnesty for everybody with arms to surrender them," he said. "Meanwhile, our security men should use the opportunity to get information on all peo-

ple with arms and begin to locate them and recover them because there are arms everywhere other than the Niger Delta."

According to him, the Boko Haram operated in such a way that they were far-flung and most of the members could not identify the other belligerents. Consequently, he pointed out, even if 100 members were arrested at a time, they might not be able to reveal the identities or whereabouts of the others, especially the leaders, because they really did not know them.

Furthermore, he said even when they knew, they still wouldn't betray the other

members because they were probably blood relations or old school mates or shared some other bond that precluded them from giving their identities or locations to security forces.

"It is difficult to annihilate Boko Haram because of the structure compared to Maitatsine because Boko Haram operates in cells or units," he said. "Each can do its own training, provide its arms and ammunition and they operate from various villages and towns. Those operating in one place don't know each other; only the leaders know themselves."

Besides, Abuh added that

W'Bank Commits \$10m to Road Safety Projects

From Dele Ogbodo in Abuja

The Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Osita Chidoka, on Friday stated that the World Bank was committing \$10 million towards FRSC's Road Safety projects with a view to improving its capacity in road traffic crashes (RTC), reduction by 50 percent.

Chidoka was speaking in Abuja at a workshop on the review, resuscitation and revival of field operations as a strategy in accident reduction, organised for its Road Sector Commanders (RSCs) from across the federation. "The World Bank is adopting Nigeria and Argentina as role models in road conformity

standards to show to other lower and middle countries on what can be done to stem the tide of road carnage which the world has identified as a major problem," he said.

The Corps Marshal stressed that the manifestation of road safety strategy adopted by FRSC since 2007 in accident reduction which is part of the UN Decade of action in Nigeria is that the World Bank is saying to other countries that they need to copy the Nigerian model and make it work in their country.

However, he said: "It is curious that at the time the World Bank is saying this, people are recommending that we should revert back to where we were before the advent of FRSC."

Etisalat Reaffirms Com

Etisalat has reaffirmed its commitment to the delivery of quality services to its over 12 million subscribers in the country.

In a statement issued in Lagos yesterday, Chief Executive Officer, Etisalat Nigeria, Steven Evans, said the company in its over three years of telecommunications services

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