

Saturday NEWS

D/Gov, Cleric escape death as teenage suicide bomber kills 5 in mosque

TEEN SUICIDE BOMBER
WITH AGENCY REPORT

A SUICIDE bomber killed five people at the central mosque in Maiduguri yesterday. According to reports, five people were killed while six sustained injuries.

"Five people have been killed and six others were injured in the Maiduguri central mosque suicide bomb attack," military spokesman Sagir Musa told reporters.

The attack narrowly missed the deputy governor of Borno state, Zanna Umar Mustapha, and Borno's Shehu (regional religious leader), Abubakar Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, who were attending Muslim Friday prayers.

"The suicide bomber, who was about 15 years old, was pushed between me and the Shehu before detonating the bomb. Fortunately we both escaped unhurt," Mustapha told reporters.

Boko Haram has killed hundreds of people this year in an insurgency against President Goodluck Jonathan, seeking to carve out an Islamic state in Africa's

most populous country and biggest oil producer.

The sect often targets government officials, religious figures and places of worship, usually Christian churches.

Security experts believe Boko Haram's attacks on religious centres in central and northern Nigeria are an attempt to provoke wider religious conflict in the country. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for attacks that killed more than 65 people in volatile central Nigeria last weekend.

Meanwhile, Senate

President David Mark yesterday condemned the bombing attack on the Mosque of the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Umar Kyari, in Maiduguri, Borno State, during which no fewer than five people were killed.

Senator Mark, who described the act as "callous", said attack on places of worship is not only ungodly but "a huge sacrilege."

"The attack on the Shehu's Mosque has shown that Boko Haram in itself is not helping to propagate Islam contrary to the messages that had been churned out by the sect."



Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko (left), Minister of Education, Prof Rukayat Rufai (right), National President, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Comrade Dauda Muhammed (2nd left) and Country Representative of Global Focus International, Abayomi Adebayo (2nd right), at the NANS-Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award (NOLA) 2012, where the Governor was conferred with Governor of the Year Award, in Abuja, on Thursday.

Why corruption cases suffered delays under my tenure as CJN—Justice Musdapher

BY IKECHUKWU
NNOCHIRI

THE outgoing Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Dahiru Musdapher, yesterday, adduced reasons why prosecution of corruption cases involving highly placed individuals, suffered delays under his tenure.

The CJN who made the disclosure in a speech he presented at a valedictory court session held in his

honour at the Supreme Court yesterday, regretted that though he directed that such cases should be heard and concluded within six months, he said "due to identified challenges, the target could not be met."

According to him, "When I assumed office as the CJN, I was inundated with complaints regarding delays in the prosecution of corruption cases particularly those

involving highly placed individuals. Therefore, I requested the National Judicial Council, NJC, to collect data on all the cases pending before all the courts in Nigeria and their status.

"Subsequently, I directed that these cases should be heard and concluded within six months wherever possible. However, due to identified challenges, the target could not be met. Some of the challenges are:

slow pace of investigation and prosecution of such cases in Nigeria.

"Similarly, the number of charges filed, makes it cumbersome to prosecute. For example it is commonplace to find 50 counts on a single charge sheet.

"Defence lawyers have perfected strategies of stalling the trial process via filing pointless interlocutory appeals. Which situation further underscores the need to hasten our plans to amend the

to block unjustified invocation of the 'Right of Appeal'.

"It is hoped that these challenges shall; be addressed as quickly as possible to ensure that the judiciary plays its necessary role in curbing corruption in Nigeria," he added.

Meantime, the CJN, yesterday, swore in two new judges into the apex court bench.

The two new judges of the Supreme Court are