

# News

## Again, female suicide bomber kills 20 at Maiduguri market

By Ndahi Marama

**MAIDUGURI**—NO fewer than 20 people were feared dead yesterday with many others sustaining injuries when a female suicide bomber who hid an Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) in her gown blew up herself at the Monday Market in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital.

Eyewitnesses said, the explosion took place at about 4pm on Tuesday, barely two hours after Governor Kashim Shettima visited some mosques in the metropolis where he gave over N200, 0000 to each of the families that lost their beloved ones in the multiple explosions that rocked the city last Saturday that claimed more than 100 lives.

Unconfirmed report had it that one suicide bomber blew up herself at the Elkanemi roundabout near fresh fish sellers, while few minutes later, the other suicide bomber also hit another location near Milk shop (Gidan Madara) in Maiduguri metropolis just about 300 metres to the market.

But the Police Commissioner, Borno State command, Mr. Clement Adoda insisted that seven people were killed with 27 injured in the explosions.

Adoda in a telephone conversation said, "Yes seven people were killed in the explosion while 27 were injured at the Monday Market Roundabout on Tuesday".

Adoda however did not say whether it was a single or twin explosions, but said, police anti-bomb disposal squad had been deployed to the scene to evacuate victims and restore



**HEARING ON POLITICAL ADVERTS:** *Chairman, House Committee on Information, Hon Umar Buba Jibril addressing media professionals and Regulatory Body of Adverts on Political advertorial that create crisis, while his Deputy, Hon. Abayomi Kako Are (middle) and Hon Ayo Tajudeen Yusuf (right) look on at the National Aseembly, Abuja. Photo by Gbemiga Olamikan.*

normalcy to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, hospital sources said, that the death toll may rise as most of the injured persons brought to the hospital by military operatives and men of the civilian JTF sustained serious injuries as they have lost much blood due to excessive bleeding.

While sympathising with the families of those who lost their lives, Media Director of Muhammad Imam Campaign Organization, the PDP governorship candidate in Borno, Mr. Inuwa Bwala said, the PDP has been compelled to rise in condemnation of the spate of explosions in Maiduguri in recent times.

Meanwhile, more than eight persons were also killed yesterday while several others

were injured when suspected Boko Haram terrorists laid ambush on motorists along Maiduguri-Damaturu road near Dogon Waya, Ngamdu village of Kaga local government area of Borno State.

One of the passengers who narrowly escaped the attack (name withheld) said the incident occurred at about 9:30am when the insurgents came on horses and pretended as if they were travellers who were trying to cross the road but when the motorists slowed down their their vehicles, the terrorists opened fire on them.

He said "the insurgents brought out the occupants of a black Jeep car and a red Honda saloon car and killed them before they took the cars away. Our driver who saw them quickly turned back but the

insurgents continued opening fire on our vehicle while a stray bullet hit one of our passengers at the back of his head.

"One of the buses behind us also tried to turn back but unfortunately, the Boko Haram terrorists shot him on right his eye".

He said both the driver and our passengers who sustained gunshot injuries were currently receiving treatment at the Umaru Shehu General Hospital Maiduguri.

He said "no fewer than eight people were killed in the incident, as all the occupants of the two vehicles snatched by the terrorists were killed and several other motorists, as we were told that the insurgents also burnt several cars and trucks abandoned by their occupants who ran for safety".

## Jonathan sacks Gen Agwai from SURE-P

By Ben Agande

**ABUJA** — PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday sacked the chairman of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Gen. Martins Agwai.

He was replaced by the former Chairman of the National Assembly Service Commission, Mr. Ishaya Dare Akau.

Though no reason was given for the sack which is with immediate effect, it may not be unconnected with his statement last week Thursday at a lecture in honour of former president Olusegun's 78th birthday lecture where he said 'change was inevitable'.

In the lecture titled, "Imperatives of a National Security framework for the development and progress of Nigeria", Gen. Agwai noted that "In life, you find out that everything needs change, if that is what the community wants, what the people want, you must give it to them and as such, it becomes inevitable."

He added: "You can have everything nice, but, if you don't have the right leadership to propel it, it cannot go anywhere."

"Integrity matters, doing what is good for the larger society, and not just what you want to do for a narrow society to please yourself".

His statement was interpreted at some circles