

News

Boko Haram kills 15 in Borno

FIFTEEN PEOPLE were killed when Boko Haram attacked a remote village in Borno State opening fire and burning homes to the ground, three residents told AFP on Tuesday. The attack happened at about

2:00 pm on Monday in Huyum, in the Askira-Uba district of Borno state which residents said has been hit repeatedly in recent weeks by the Islamist militants.

"The whole village was burnt by Boko Haram gunmen. We lost around 500 homes," said Bukar Zira, who fled to the commercial hub of Mubi in neighbouring Adamawa state as the rebels moved in.

Zira said the insurgents surrounded the village and opened fire before moving in, sprinkling petrol on homes, many of which are mud-brick with straw roofs, then setting them alight.

"We have so far lost 15 people and one was injured. People in the whole village moved out to different parts of Borno and Adamawa," he added.

Another resident, Peter Malgwui, said Boko Haram had mounted several raids against neighbouring villages in recent weeks, looting food supplies and homes.

"They completely burnt the whole village. Not a single home has been spared," he added, giving the same death toll as Zira.

One Huyum resident, Ishaya Ayuba, said: "The attackers remained up to 4:00 am this morning until they withdrew. There were troops stationed at about 20 kilometres (13 miles) away but they didn't respond. We have lost everything."

The attack is the 12th since

Buhari became new president on May 29. A total of 109 people have been killed.

Troops apprehend mastermind of Gombe bombing

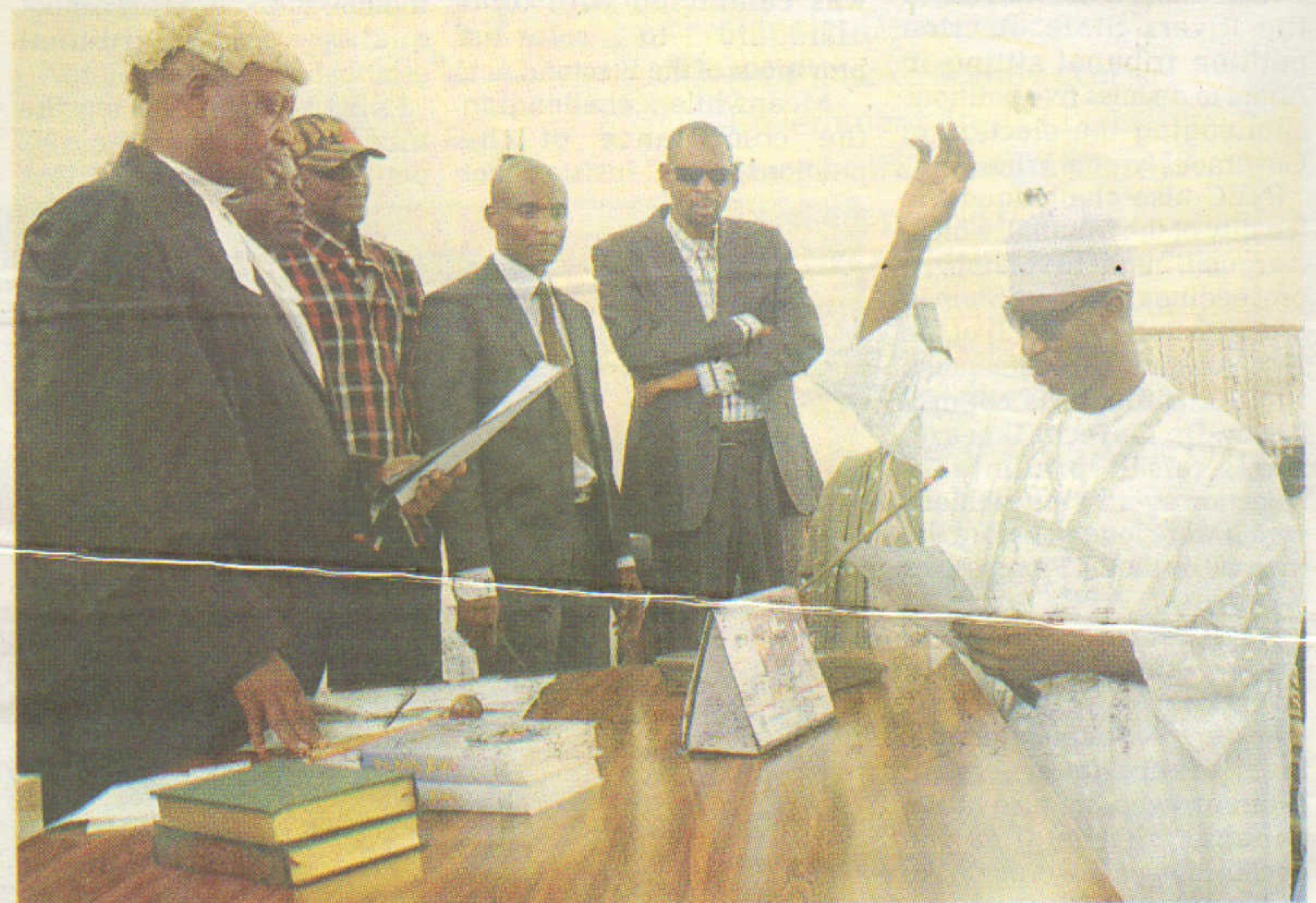
Meanwhile, the Defence headquarters disclosed, yesterday, that two masterminds

of last year bombing at the Gombe Line Transport Services that killed scores of persons have been arrested after a shoot-out with troops in Gombe, on Sunday.

It said in a statement, yesterday, that, "the two suspected high profile terrorists were eventually arrested following surveillance

and intelligence operations that tracked them to a check-point at Bajoga in the state.

"One of them sustained serious injuries during the encounter. He is being treated at a military medical centre. Interrogation of the suspects has started."



INAUGURATION: Speaker of Adamawa House of Assembly, Alhaji Kabiru Mijinyawa (right), taking oath of office before the Clerk of the House, Mr. Francis Gbansenso, at the inauguration of the state's 6th Assembly in Yola, yesterday. Photo: NAN