

Boko Haram kills 26, Injures 20 in Borno village

By Ndahi Marama

MAIDUGURI—NO fewer than 26 people were feared dead with 20 others sustaining gunshot injuries when suspected members of the dreaded Islamic Sect, Boko Haram, Monday stormed Debiro in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State.

The insurgents, who were in four Hilux vehicles and motorcycles, according to Mallam Yakubu Dabiro - the son of the District Head of the village, also burnt down many residential houses and vehicles before leaving without confrontation.

Debiro, the home town of the former commander of the Joint Task Force, Major General Bata Debiro (retired) was hit by

members of the Boko Haram for the third time this year, according to locals from the area.

Debiro is north east of Biu and about 45 kilometres drive to the council headquarters. Although the people of Debiro are more associated with Hawul Local Government Area that is just about 25 kilometres drive to Azare, the council headquarters of Hawul.

It was gathered that, when the militants arrived the village in the night, they initially shot and killed 17 people before injuring many others, only to return again when surviving residents were burying their dead ones to kill many more.

Usman Malgana, from the General Hospital in Biu, confirmed that they lost 26 people while 20 are currently

receiving treatment at the hospital with doctors battling to save their lives.

It will be recalled that the Islamic sect, Boko Haram had intensified their attacks on Borno since the inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari, who ordered the relocation of the Military Command and Control Centre to Maiduguri.

Residents of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital said, in three weeks since the inauguration the insurgents had launched more than 100 attacks at different locations.

Just yesterday, more than 35 people were killed while over 50 others sustained severe injuries when twin female suicide bombers hit Baga fish international market in Maiduguri metropolis.

Other members of the gang were said to have escaped with bullet wounds in the gun duel which lasted more than 30 minutes.

Abia State Commissioner of Police, Habila Joshak, who confirmed the incident in a telephone interview, said a Toyota Avensis with Registration number; ACH 181 AA, belonging to top Abia State government official as well as a double barrel shot gun were recovered from the gang.

He said the corpses of the dead members of the gang had been deposited in an undisclosed morgue in the city.

Joshak added that police had launched a manhunt for fleeing members of the gang and urged the public to assist the police with information about anybody with bullet wounds.