## 7 passengers, driver die in Borno IED explosion

By Ndahi Marama

AIDUGURI—SEVEN passengers and a driver were, yesterday, killed by an improvised explosive device, IED, planted along Biu-Buratai-Buni Yadi-Damaturu Road.

The incident, which took place between Kamuya and Buratai village, home town of the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Yusuf Buratai, came barely a week after insurgents abducted five persons on the same route.

According to sources, the passengers and their driver, in a Golf car, were heading from Biu Local Government Area of Borno State to Maiduguri, the state capital. Close to the newly-tarred road constructed by Yobe State Government, the carrode unto the IED, which exploded and obliterated the car and occupants.

The incident, according to a driver and his passengers, who were trailing the affected Volkswagen Golf car, happened at about 10a.m.

The driver said: "We have to give God the glory for sparing our lives and properties. I was behind

the affected car. When it exploded, we immediately made a U-turn.

"In fact, we thought it was a rainbow show, as the whole area became lit and a heavy sound that shook the area."

Recalled that recently the cashier of Hawul Local Government Area of the Borno State was kidnapped along the

same route, before he was later released after ransom was paid.

Also, an ambush by terrorists along the same road, two weeks ago, claimed the life of a military personnel with foodstuff and millions of Naira carted away.

All efforts to get confirmation from the Police authorities proved abortive at press time.

## One dies, as drivers clash over tickets in Ekiti

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

ADO-EKITI—ONE person died, yesterday, in Igogo-Ekiti, Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State, during a fight that started with two drivers.

The fight began after a disagreement on tickets being given to drivers for daily operations.

One of the drivers, Olarewaju, unhappy with the method of the operations hit his rival, Ajayi, with substance suspected to be charm, and Ajayi died on the spot.

An eyewitness told newsmen that the fracas started with two

drivers, but escalated to a full scale fight between drivers and relations of the two feuding individuals.

The crisis was said to have paralysed commercial activities and witnessed heavy deployment of policemen in the town.

One of the drivers was said to have obtained a ticket but refused to pay, a situation which resulted in an argument that degenerated into fracas.

"As they started exchanging blows, one of them brought out a substance, suspected to be a charm, and hit the other, who fell and died," the eyewitness said.

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