

According to him, "the incident

Anene, said she was yet to receive

7 travellers killed in suspected Boko Haram attack near Maiduguri

AT least seven persons were Sunday reportedly killed after suspected Boko Haram insurgents attacked two vehicles travelling along Maiduguri-Damaturu highway, sources said.

The attack took place on the outskirts of Auno, a village not more than 20km from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The victims were said to be travelling during the late hours when they came under attack.

The government of Borno State had two weeks ago placed a movement restriction on all roads

leading to and from the state, but the main highway to the state, popularly called Kano-Maiduguri road, remained open to motorists.

The state's committee on COVID-19, led by the deputy governor, Umar Kadafur, on Sunday announced the shutdown of the remaining road. The new order was to come into effect yesterday.

A witness, who was travelling out of Maiduguri, said he saw at least seven bodies on the road just outside Auno village.

The source said: "We just came across a scene of suspected Boko Haram attack here in Auno, and residents said the attack took place last night.

"From what I hurriedly counted, there were seven corpses and I saw two vehicles that were set ablaze—a Toyota Hilux and a truck filled with bags of beans that are still smoking."

An official of the road transport workers, Malam Ali, also confirmed the attack.

"We heard that a truck was burnt down near Auno but honestly I don't have information on the number of persons killed in the incident," he said.