

SUSPECTED Boko Haram insurgents have killed about 40 people in Gurokayeya village in Gaidam Local Government Area of Yobe State.

While 20 people were killed on Monday by the gunmen, the other 20 were killed on Tuesday by an explosive device suspected to have been planted by the insurgents.

Residents linked the killings to the inability of the farmers in the community to pay taxes to the insurgents on their harvest.

A native said yesterday, "The insurgents stormed the village between 5p.m. and 6p.m., called out the residents, gathered them on the outskirts and opened fire on them."

"Over 17 people died on the spot on Monday. The others about 20 were among those who drove from Gaidam and neighbouring villages to the affected village for the burial of the first 20, on Tuesday.

"When they were driving back home, their vehicle drove over an explosive planted by the insurgents, 10 died on the spot and about 10 died at the Gaidam Primary Health Care Centre, where they were rushed to after the accident."

The Yobe State Police Command spokesman, Dungus Abdulkarim, who confirmed the two incidents, said: "The gunmen (he would not call them insurgents until the conclusion of investigations) stormed

Tax-seeking insurgents kill 40 in Yobe attacks

Gurokayeya village about 11p.m., on Monday and opened fire, which resulted in the killing of the Village Head and between 17 and 20 others.

"Two of those who sustained severe injuries are now receiving treatment at the Gaidam PHC and two other are now at the

Yobe State University Teaching Hospital, Damaturu.

"About 7.30p.m., of Tuesday, the people, who had converged on the village for the burial of those killed, drove over a landmine, and 20 people died as a result."

He described the village as a

stronghold of Boko Haram insurgents, disclosing that troops had even tagged the area a 'no-go area.'

Abdulkarim, who noted that the incidents were reprisal attacks by the suspected insurgents, said: "You know this is harvest time, and the insurgents are used to going around the farming communities, collecting Jizya (farm produce

tax). Recently, they stormed Tarmuwa axis of the state in this tax collection round.

"Following information revealed by the locals, security agents stormed the locality and engaged the unsuspecting insurgents in a serious gunfire exchange, as a result of which two of the gunmen were killed and four were arrested, as many escaped with gun wounds.

"So, in reprisal, the gunmen descended on Gurokayeya village of Gaidam LGA where they killed the people I have just told you."



CONVOCATION—Special Guest of Honour at the Convocation, Maj.-Gen. A. A. Fayemiwo, Chief of Accounts and Budgets (Army), who also doubles as Chairman of the school's Governing Board (6th left); Commandant, Nigerian Army School of Finance and Administration, Brig.-Gen. Julius Osifo (8th left), during the convocation ceremony of the school. •See story on Page 32