

■ Burial of police officers killed on Saturday during Boko Haram/ISWAP attack at a Divisional Police Headquarters in Nnganzai Local Government Area of Borno State. The burial was held in Maiduguri in line with religious rites yesterday

Terrorists kill 5 policemen in Borno, Katsina

From Haruna Gimba Yaya (Maiduguri) & Ibrahim Musa Giginyu (Katsina)

Boko Haram terrorists and bandits have killed five police officers in separate attacks on police facilities in Borno and Katsina states.

In Borno, police confirmed the killing of four personnel and a member of a hunters' group in separate attacks by suspected Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists.

Police spokesperson in the state, ASP Nahum Kenneth Daso, said the incidents occurred in the early hours of Saturday in Nnganzai and Mobbar local government areas.

He said armed insurgents attacked the Nnganzai Divisional Police Headquarters at about 1am in an attempt to overrun the facility.

According to him, police operatives, in collaboration with the Police Mobile Force and a crack squad on special duty, engaged the attackers in a fierce gun battle and repelled the assault.

"They also foiled coordinated attacks on Nnganzai and Damasak communities, restoring normalcy and reinforcing

security in the affected areas," he said.

Daso added that the attackers used rocket-propelled grenades and other sophisticated weapons, damaging part of the station and partially burning an unserviceable Armoured Personnel Carrier.

"Regrettably, four police personnel paid the supreme price in the line of duty," he said.

He identified the deceased officers as Samuel Ezekiel, an inspector attached to Nnganzai division; Sanusi Mohammed, an inspector with 58 PMF Lafiya; Bitrus Luka, a police constable with the crack squad BRS; and Shaibu Bukar, also a constable with the crack squad BRS.

In a separate statement on Sunday, Daso said the command laid the four fallen officers to rest at the Kawar Maila burial ground and the maximum prison burial ground in Maiduguri.

He added that the ceremony was attended by the commissioner of police, assistant commissioner of police (operations), and other senior officers.

The police spokesperson said prayers were offered

by Bukar Gajibo, an imam, and Theophilus Mutum, chaplain of the command.

In a related development, the terrorists attacked the Malam Fatori IDP camp in Damasak at about 2.40am, targeting a CJTF/hunters' duty post.

A member of the hunters' group, identified as Atom Abua, 40, was killed, while about 20 thatched houses were destroyed.

The police said joint security teams comprising the police, military, Civilian Joint Task Force, and local hunters responded swiftly, repelled the attackers, and prevented further destruction.

The Commissioner of Police, Naziru Abdulmajid, has since deployed additional personnel and operational assets to the affected areas.

In another incident, a police officer was killed following a bandits' attack on Sayaya village in Matazu Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The assailants reportedly stormed the community and attacked the local police station, where the officer was killed.

They also targeted the Primary Health Care Centre

and looted several shops, carting away goods and other valuables.

Residents said the attack triggered panic, forcing many to flee as the gunmen operated for hours.

They noted that the incident came as a surprise, as such attacks had subsided following a peace deal in the area.

Katsina State Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda, visited the community to assess the damage and commiserate with residents.

The governor directed the immediate deployment of additional security personnel to restore normalcy and prevent further attacks.

Meanwhile, Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has expressed optimism that the Boko Haram insurgency will soon be brought to an end.

In an Easter message issued by his Special Adviser on Media, Dauda Iliya, the governor said: "It is heartening to observe the level of religious harmony between Christians and Muslims in the state. I urge all residents to sustain this spirit as we continue to take deliberate steps towards achieving lasting peace."