

ISWAP kills 2 policemen, soldier; abducts 8, razes telecom mast in Maiduguri

From Olatunji Omirin, Maiduguri

Suspected fighters of the Islamic State of the West African Province (ISWAP) have killed two policemen and a soldier at Malam Fatori, the headquarters of Abadam Local Government in Borno State.

It was learnt that the deceased were members of a joint security team conducting clearance operations in the area in preparation for the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) when they were attacked.

A security source said that the team responded swiftly and repelled the attackers but unfortunately lost the three men.

In another attack, ISWAP abducted at least 8 persons and burnt down telecom mast in Magumeri Town, the headquarters of the local government at exactly 11:50am.

A security source said they stationed themselves in two locations and exchanged gun fire with the military, while another group burnt down telecommunications masts.

"They attacked an Airtel



■ Zulum telecommunications mast and forcefully took away two policemen and site engineer that came to work on the site. Their whereabouts is unknown

after the attacks but the combined security agencies are working on it," the source said.

A member of civilian JTF said the fighters sneaked into the general hospital to steal some drugs and other medical consumables.

"It was a serious confusion when they started shooting, so some went to hospital to steal drugs, a refrigerator and some bed sheets.

"They attacked the town from behind, burning down Airtel Telecommunications Mast and ransacked the

hospital," the source added.

In another attack, members of the ISWAP reportedly abducted five travellers along the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road on Tuesday.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred at about 3:30pm at Tamsukau in Kaga Local Government Area, which is few kilometres away from Ngamdu, a super camp of the Nigerian military.

It was learnt the insurgents, dressed in military uniforms, set up a false checkpoint which the commuters mistook to be soldiers.

Gunmen kill 14 in