

We'll be harder on bandits — Buhari

● Commissions projects ● 5 killed as terrorists bomb Maiduguri ahead of president's visit

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President Muhammadu Buhari has vowed that his administration will use military might to deal with bandits terrorising Nigerians, especially in the North West.

The president stated this yesterday while addressing the people during his official working visit to commission a flyover, road and a school constructed by Borno State Government and some facilities by a business tycoon, Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi.

Indimi had built a Distance Learning Centre and International Conference Hall at the University of Maiduguri.

President Buhari, who expressed concern, said, "I am adequately aware of successes here and our failures elsewhere

especially in my geopolitical zone, the North West, where it is the same people, the same culture stealing each other's properties, killing each other, what for?"

"I have ordered and started receiving military hardware from the United States of America of aircraft, helicopters, armoured vehicles and we are going to be very very hard on them.

"The problem is in the North West as I said, same people, same culture, we are going to deal with them."

President Buhari, who was at the Air Force Base in Maiduguri, Borno State capital, urged troops of Operation Hadin Kai to remain steadfast as they go into the final phase of the campaign against insurgency and other forms of criminalities.

He said the entire nation remains grateful for the

gallantry displayed in ensuring the gradual return of peace to the North East, while condoling with families that have lost loved ones, and the wounded.

President Buhari assured families of soldiers who paid the supreme price for the nation and the injured that the federal government will cater for their needs, recognizing their sacrifices for all Nigerians.

During a courtesy call at the Palace of the Shehu of Borno, Dr Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, the president called for more cooperation among the elite in the country, with a commitment to inform people on realities and mobilize for development, which he said, will help in resolving the challenges facing the nation.

President Buhari noted that there was a need to be more careful in assessing the performance of the administration and it should

be relative to the time and resources available.

In his remarks, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum expressed appreciation that the president was visiting the state for a second time in less than six months to commission developmental projects.

Zulum also appreciated the interventions of the president, particularly in housing and energy, which include the 50 megawatts NNPC project to improve power supply in the state.

In his remarks, the Shehu of Borno said the state had started experiencing a new lease of peace, with many people returning to their farms and businesses.

Before the arrival of President Buhari on a one-day working visit, the Boko Haram fighters fired a rocket into Maiduguri,

The insurgents were said to have attacked three

communities at Ngomari airport general area in Maiduguri.

The attackers appeared to have targeted the airport as they struck 10:45am, a few minutes before the arrival of Buhari.

Some locals told Daily Trust that the attackers hit the communities with rocket launchers, killing five persons and destroying residential areas and properties.

A resident said one of the rockets landed close to an office and two landed in Ngomari Ayashe community, killing four children, one in Moranti.

"I can confirm that a 16-year-old child, Walida, was affected in the attack. She died instantly; she was cooking when her head got destroyed by the rocket," the resident said.

At least 16 persons reportedly sustained injuries in the attack, which the authorities are yet to comment on.

5 killed & injured in lorry truck accident