

* Lieutenant killed, 6 soldiers injured in B/Haram ambush

From Hamisu Kabir Matazu

A lieutenant was killed and six soldiers injured in an ambush by Boko Haram insurgents along the Biu-Buni Yadi road in Borno State on Thursday.

Daily Trust on Sunday gathered that the ambush occurred at Kamuya, a village close to Buratai, the hometown of a former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai (retd).

The incident happened days after the military personnel, who were gunned down while on a peace mission in Delta State, were laid to rest at the National Military Cemetery in Abuja.

In a WhatsApp message last night, the acting Assistant Director of Army Public Relations of Sector 2, Damaturu, Captain Muhammad Shehu, confirmed the incident, saying only a

lieutenant died in the ambush.

He said the injured officers were responding to treatment at a hospital.

"The only officer we lost during the incident is one lieutenant; other soldiers were wounded and are responding to treatment at a hospital," he said.

But a security source told our correspondent that seven soldiers were killed.

"It is very sad; they are soldiers of 135 Special Force BN FOB in Buratai. They were ambushed on their way to Damaturu, Yobe State to buy fuel.

"Unfortunately, we lost an officer, a driver, gunner and four other escorts, while the wounded are in a hospital responding to treatment," he said.

A resident said he witnessed the gun battle on his way to the neighbouring Yadi town, the hometown of the Yobe State governor, Mai Mala

Buni.

"I can't describe the kind of gun battle that ensued. The insurgents, who were in large numbers, overwhelmed the soldiers," he said.

Military has capacity to end insecurity - Kwankwaso

Senator Musa Kwankwaso, a former Minister of Defence, says the military can end the current security challenge facing the country if given the necessary motivation.

Kwankwaso, who is also the national leader of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), said this when he spoke with newsmen shortly after the NNPP National Executive Committee meeting in Abuja.

He said although it was the responsibility of the federal government to address the security challenge, Nigerians also had a crucial role to play by supplying vital information to security agencies.

"As a former minister of defence, as well as chief security officer of Kano State for eight years, somebody who has gone around and well exposed in this game of politics, I believe that tackling security challenges is now on the shoulders of the federal government.

"We have seen states forming some security outfits. Sometimes you laugh. The level at which it is today is at the level of the Nigerian military, and anything short of that wouldn't work.

"And everybody must work together to make sure there is peace in this country.

"Some of us who are from the villages and even towns can remember how our people were going to farms. Now people cannot go to the farm. They are also being chased from their villages and towns.

"Our children are daily abused and taken away by criminals and bandits in hundreds," he said.