Troops kill 140 terrorists, arrest 57 others in Borno

From Olatunji Omirin, Maiduguri

The Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) troops have killed 140 Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) insurgents and arrested 57 others in the Marte Local Government Area of Borno State.

The Force Commander, Major Gen. Ibrahim Sallau Ali, disclosed this at a press conference on the military operation in the Lake Chad Basin held in Maiduguri on Tuesday.

He also said six officers of the multinational troops paid the supreme price during the operation.

The operation, codenamed LAKE SANITY 2, involved a series of highly effective air interdictions at Tumbun Fulani and other strategic locations, as part of a decisive offensive to eliminate the remnants of insurgents hiding along the shores of Lake Chad.

These aerial operations, carried out by the national

Air forces of Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon, resulted in the destruction of key terrorist logistic bases and staging areas, particularly in Tumbum Fulani and surrounding areas.

Major Gen Ali said in addition to the successful neutralisation of 140 terrorists, 176 insurgents surrendered, and 57 others were apprehended for their involvement in terrorist activities.

He said the troops also seized a cache of weapons, including 796 rounds of ammunition, one PKM machine gun, five AK-47 rifles, two motorcycles and eight magazines, among other items.

He said, "Since April 23, the dedicated troops have relentless in their efforts, recently clearing some locations such as Doron Naira. Zanari, Bagadaza and other key terrorists' strongholds in the Lake Chad area.

"It is essential to acknowledge the sacrifices

made during this phase; regrettably, we have recorded six casualties among the multinational troops since the operation began."

He said the successes recorded by the troops through sustained operations were a critical step towards restoring peace and stability in the region.

Ali reiterated their commitment to a secure and safe Lake Chad region.

"We also want to acknowledge the support provided by national operations such as Operation EMERGENCE 4 in Cameroon, Operation HADIN KAI in Nigeria, the Chadian national operations, and Sector 4 in Diffa, Niger Republic.

"These operations have been instrumental as a blocking force for Operation LAKE SANITY II. Likewise, we express our gratitude to the media for your continuous support and cooperation as we proceed with our operations. We will keep you updated," Ali said.