

# Death toll in attack on Borno town hits 150

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

**T**HE death toll in Benishiekh's Boko Haram attacks in Borno State yesterday hit 150. The victims include two soldiers and three policemen as well as 25 residents who were fleeing the town in the early hours of Wednesday. Property destroyed in the two-day attacks by the suspected insurgents include 15 trucks, 18 cars, eight motorcycles, six bicycles and more than 280 houses and shops of residents who had fled into the bush on the directives of soldiers deployed in the town. Addressing Governor Kashim Shettima at Benishiekh on Wednesday's attacks and killings, Lt. Col Mohammed Idriss Yusuf of the 21 Armoured Brigade disclosed that over 300 Boko Haram insurgents invaded the town by 5p.m. and started to attack houses and shops with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol-bombs for about 10

hours, during which they killed 14 people, including two soldiers and three policemen at their duty posts on the Maiduguri-Damaturu road.

He said as the soldiers ran out of arms and ammunition to face the firing powers of the insurgents, some of the soldiers had to take cover in the nearby bush, after the residents were directed to flee also for their safety. His words: "Your Excellency, as the residents have re-

turned to their houses after the two-day attacks and killings in this town, more soldiers, arms and ammunition will be deployed from Maiduguri to protect lives and property in Benishiekh."

While urging residents to return to their homes, the Commissioner of Police, Lawal Tanko, yesterday also said "we are bringing more policemen to this town so that you could be protected from further at-

tacks and killing by the Boko Haram insurgents," adding that the people should continue to cooperate with the police and other security agents that operate along the highways and communities. A resident, Alhaji Bukar Jubril, told *The Guardian* that the insurgents, numbering about 300 came with two armoured tanks, two TATA trucks, five Boyona vehicles and 31 Golf Volkswagen mounted with anti-aircraft rifles.

## Oando clarifies link to Ibori

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ness, Detective Constable Clerk, misled the court by saying Ocean and Oil Services and Oando Plc are "...the same company under a different name..." clearly trying to establish a link that does not exist between Oando and Ibori.

"Oando as a responsible cor-

porate with obligations to its shareholders will pursue all legal avenues available to right this wrong and seek compensation for any losses it incurs as a consequence of this inappropriate course of action.

"The UK prosecutor is making damaging statements about a very substantial overseas company without any

reasonable evidence while our company cannot defend itself in return. This insidious grandstanding cannot continue. It is leading to unfounded speculation that we are determined to bring to an end. At this time, we have our counsel in court, to intervene as "a friend of the court" if any damaging statements are made in relation to Oando."