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Policeman, four others killed in *B'Haram* attack

From **Njadvara Musa**, Maiduguri

THE police command in Borno State has confirmed the death of two persons in a *Boko Haram* attack along the Maiduguri-Damboa highway on Tuesday.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Damian Chukwu, who confirmed this yesterday said the dead persons included a policeman and a truck driver.

"You would recall that since the Maiduguri-Damboa highway was re-opened, motorists ply the road strictly on military escort. Initially, it was only the military that provides the escort, but later the police was invited to join," Chukwu said.

He said the convoy left Maiduguri with the military in front while the police was at the rear. "The convoy had about 200 vehicles among which included an 80-seater bus conveying a newly deployed Mobile Police Unit from Oghara in Delta heading for Askira Uba, one of the newly liberated communities.

"The convoy also had a burial party of a late Special Investigation Bureau policewoman who died last week," Chukwu said.

He added: "The convoy started moving around 10:30p.m. and by 11:30p.m. we got information that they were ambushed around Abari-Dalwa village about 30 kilometres from Maiduguri. Six of the mobile policemen in the bus were injured, but as I speak to you they are responding to treatment at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

"A police Sgt. Bala Tiishe was killed in the vehicle. A civilian, Mustapha Modu, driving a truck conveying drugs for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was also killed," Chukwu said, adding that all other policemen in the convoy were unhurt.

Meanwhile, three people have been killed in a landmine explosion and a roadside ambush in Borno blamed on *Boko Haram*, the civilian militia and police said yesterday.

In the first incident, at least three loggers were killed when their truck ran over a landmine outside Abbari village in the Konduga district of Borno on Tuesday.