

## 17 ISWAP fighters drown while crossing river in Yobe

From Joseph Onyekwere (Lagos), Odita Sunday and Kingsley Jeremiah (Abuja)

At least 17 members of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) have drowned while attempting to cross a river along the Nigeria-Niger Republic border, according to counter-insurgency expert,

- Again, terrorists bomb Damaturu-Maiduguri 330KV transmission line
- Ufeli sues FG over non-prosecution of alleged terrorism financiers

Zagazola Makama.

He also disclosed, yesterday, that Boko Haram terrorists destroyed Damaturu-Maiduguri 330 Kilovolt transmission line barely three weeks after it was restored. Meanwhile, a human rights

advocate, Evans Ufeli, has filed a suit at the Federal High Court, Lagos, seeking a judicial review and an order of mandamus compelling the Federal Government to prosecute individuals and entities allegedly financing terrorism

in Nigeria.

The ISWAP members drowned between Kafetoo and Bulabulin Gaidam communities in Yobe State when they were caught by strong water currents and swept away.

Makama stated that the fighters had been displaced from key bases, including Bulabulin Gaidam, Chettimari and Diffan, all along the Nigeria-Niger border.

ISWAP has been involved in terrorism across Nigeria's North East and has come under increasing pressure from the Nigerian military in recent months.

According to Makama, the terrorists blew up the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) infrastructure with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), yesterday.

The development plunged Maiduguri and its environs into complete darkness.

"The attackers used IEDs to blow up the facility around 2.00 a.m., plunging Maiduguri and surrounding areas back into darkness. This marks a repeated targeting of the critical infrastructure by insurgents," the post read.

The TCN, which had restored the line on September 4, 2024, following its earlier destruction by terrorists, has yet to officially speak on the latest incident as of the time of filing this report.

In June, TCN stated that two of its towers, T193 and T194, along the 330KV single circuit in the axis were vandalised.

On December 28, 2023, towers T193, T194 and T195, were destroyed using improvised explosives.

Although TCN's General Manager (Public Affairs), Ndidi Mbah, told *The Guardian* that the current situation might not have a link to Boko Haram, some stakeholders accused the company of broadcasting the repair of the line only for vandals to attack.

Instead of an explosion as in the previous two attacks, Mbah said in the current situation, vandals cut off all four tower footings, causing the structure to collapse.

Disclosing that "Boko Haram doesn't have such time," Mbah said the damage was discovered by TCN linesmen during an emergency patrol of the affected area.

She noted that TCN engineers were working on an interim solution to restore power to the affected areas.



Vice President Kashim Shettima (second right) departing Abuja for the United States to attend the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)...at the weekend.

## Flood: NIHSA alerts on rising water levels in Benue Basin

From Ameh Ochojila (Abuja) and Ibrahim Obansa (Lokoja)

WATER levels along critical stations in the River Benue basin have surged to alarming heights, according to the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA).

Consequently, the National Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (N-HYPPADEC) has warned people living along riverbanks in Kogi State to relocate to high grounds to avoid the devastating impact of the impending flood as predicted by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet).

The agency said as of Saturday, September 21, the levels recorded were 6.3 metres at Wuro Boki, 5.04 metres at Jimeta Bridge, 8.2 metres at IBB1, 9.4 metres at Makurdi and 8.68 metres at Lokoja.

With the figures nearing

### N-HYPPADEC urges people living along riverbanks to relocate

dangerous thresholds, NIHSA urged states previously identified as high-risk flood zones to take immediate action.

The agency called for urgent implementation of containment measures or the preparation for possible water conveyance as part of flood management efforts.

"Given the steady increase in water levels, proactive measures must be immediately put in place to mitigate the impacts of flooding," NIHSA warned in its statement yesterday.

It stressed that failure to act could result in severe flooding, endangering lives, property and infrastructure.

This alert followed weeks of heavy rainfall and heightened concerns over potential overflow from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, which could exacer-

bate flood risks in Nigeria. Earlier advisories showed regions within the Benue and Niger River basins as particularly vulnerable to flooding.

Communities along riverbanks and other flood-prone areas were urged to remain vigilant and adhere to safety guidelines issued by state emergency services.

The flooding risk is a yearly challenge for many Nigerian states, particularly during the rainy season, and has been worsened by climate change.

NIHSA continues to monitor river conditions closely and has promised timely updates as the situation evolves.

Federal and state authorities are again encouraged to co-ordinate efforts to reduce the impact of potential flooding on affected communities.

THE Managing Director of N-HYPPADEC, Abubakar Yelwa, gave the warning on Saturday during a sensitisation campaign he took to the palace of Ata Igala and Ejelbaji in Idah Local Council of the state, seeking their support to move people living along the riverbanks to high grounds.

Yelwa, who described the flood as a natural disaster that nobody could stop, said the menace could only be managed to reduce high devastation as witnessed in 2022 in Kogi and other states.

"We are at the forefront of giving early warning to all N-HYPPADEC communities. We have been sensitising and calling on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency because of the warning we received from NiMet and the signs of flooding we have seen or heard from the locals."