

Troops kill 22 in encounters with Boko Haram



•Security agencies, military probe 'abduction of 100'

The Defence Headquarters said yesterday that soldiers killed 22 insurgents in encounters with Boko Haram in Buduram and Doron Baga in Borno State.

The insurgents had allegedly disguised as women in hijab to infiltrate the two communities.

The DHQ in an update on the ongoing counter-insurgency measures in the North-East said: "Troops of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in a dawn raid operation yesterday cleared a terrorists camp in Buduram, North of Doron Baga, where terrorists were massing up and reorganizing to carry out a reprisal attack after being routed in Doron Baga in a previous encounter last Sunday.

"17 terrorists died in the raid operation while some who escaped into neighbouring islands in the Lake Chad Peninsula are still being pursued.

"Meanwhile, calm has been restored in Doron Baga after the Sunday attack by terrorists who infiltrated the community with some of them disguising as women in hijab.

"Five of the terrorists died in the counter offensive to defend Doron Baga by troops of the MNJTF.

"Many of the inhabitants of the community who had fled into nearby bushes for safety are now returning." The claims could not be independently confirmed.

The Nation however gathered that security agencies and the military have launched an investigation into the reported abduction of 100 young men from Hadaija community in Doron Baga, Kukawa Local Government Area of Borno State by Boko Haram.

A reliable source said: “The alleged abduction of the young men appears to be a hoax because neither the community nor relatives of these young men have got in touch.

“But we are not taking things for granted, we are investigating the allegation no matter how exaggerated it might be.”