

Boko Haram attacks town in Yobe

SUSPECTED members of the Boko Haram terror group have launched attack at a military base in Sasawa town of Yobe State in North-East Nigeria.

Sasawa is an agrarian community in Damaturu Local Government Area of the state and is located 27 kilometres north of Damaturu, the Yobe State capital.

Witnesses told **Channels Television** that the terrorists came to the town in five pick-up vans around 6:00p.m on Sunday and launched an attack on the military base before carrying out a coordinated attack on the town.

The source disclosed that after overpowering the security operatives in the town, the insurgents went about burning houses and destroying facilities in the town.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Sumonu Abdulmaliki, who confirmed the incident, could not give further details as he said

"the town has no means of communication at the moment and I don't have any details of the current situation."

"All I can confirm to you is that Sasawa came under attack yesterday by the insurgents, but there is no further details for now."

This incident came barely four weeks after the insurgents attacked a military formation in Buniyadi, the

headquarters of Gujba Local Government Area of the state.

A Sasawa resident, who pleaded anonymity, told **Channels Television** that security forces had since mobilised and were after the insurgents who were well known to be operating in the suburb of Sasawa community.

"We have been seeing these people in our bushes

as we go out to farm and we have been informing security forces located in our community, but to our greatest dismay, they could not go after them."

"Since securities (agents) are aware of their whereabouts, it is expected that the insurgents should be confronted in their hideouts rather than allowing them to attack our community any time they so wish,"

the source said.

The source claimed that a security personnel and a civilian JTF were killed during the attack which lasted for over four hours.

Sunday's attack has brought renewed fear into the minds of Damaturu residents as well as nearby communities like Babangida, Mafa, Damakasu, Ngamdu, Benisheikh, Biri, among others.

NJC holds emergency meeting tomorrow over CJN

LANRE ADEWOLE - LAGOS

THE National Judicial Council (NJC) is meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) over burning issues in the judiciary.

The main agenda of the emergency meeting, according to **Nigerian Tribune** findings, is the controversy surrounding the acting tenure of the council's chairman and Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Walter Onnoghen.

His three-month acting appointment ends on Fri-

day, February 10.

A government source had revealed on Sunday that "something concrete was being done over his (Onnoghen) substantive appointment."

As of Monday, the council had not received any notification from either the senate or the presidency concerning his confirmation.

The president is to forward his name to the senate for confirmation.

Senate is yet to inform the council that it has received

confirmation request from the presidency.

When such signal is received, senate will write the council to present him for the confirmation hearing at the National Assembly.

With just a few days to the end of the acting period and the constitutional lacuna that will follow inaction by the stakeholders, **Nigerian Tribune** learnt last night that the council might decide to extend Onnoghen's acting tenure.

The constitution empow-

ers the council to so do.

After taking such a decision, the presidency will be notified.

The reported move by the council is said to be aimed at forestalling major leadership crisis in the judiciary.

Onnoghen is the first southern CJN in about 30 years, with seven successive Northern predecessors-in-office.

He is also the first in history to be appointed in acting capacity, despite the availability of the appointing authority.