

Dauda, told NAN that his people had vacated the area.

Also, Boko Haram killed three loggers near a village in North-East Borno State, local militia assisting the military to fight the terrorists group told *Agence France Press (AFP)* on Wednesday.

"The decapitated bodies of the three loggers were found by the roadside," on Monday, the local vigilante, Ibrahim Liman, said in Maiduguri, the state capital.

"Decapitation is a Boko Haram hallmark," he added.

"Boko Haram fighters have increasingly targeted loggers in their armed campaign, accusing them of spying and passing information to the military and the local militia fighting them," Liman said.

The latest victims were seized with their truckload of firewood near Ajsa-Wulomari village, 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Maiduguri, said Musa Ari, another member of the local militia who gave a similar toll.

"The truck and the firewood were also abandoned near the bodies of the loggers," said Liman.

Boko Haram's eight-year campaign of Islamist violence has killed over 20,000 people and displaced some 2.6 million from their homes, triggering a dire humanitarian crisis in the region.

Most of the displaced rely on food handouts from aid agencies while others have turned to felling trees from the scanty vegetation in this arid region for firewood which they sell to buy food.

In April, eight loggers were killed and their bodies burnt

General Tukur Buratai, has charged Nigerian troops in the North-East to always be alert as there was no time to rest yet.

According to him, there are more tasks to be done in the effort to clear the remnants of Boko Haram terrorists.

Buratai gave the charge while addressing troops of the 3 Division Tactical Command in Damaturu, on Wednesday.

He advised the troops to work closely with other security agencies to ensure that the remnants of Boko Haram were flushed out of the region.

Earlier, at the Palace of the Emir of Damaturu, Alhaji Shehu Ashimi Ibn Umar El-Kanemi II, the army chief said the territories had become desperate to remain relevant hence they had resorted to attacking isolated locations and kidnapping for ransom.

Buratai solicited the support of the emir and other traditional rulers in the state through provision of relevant information.

He said although the terrorists had been flushed out of the state, some remnants were still attempting to use the state as transit point, adding that the cooperation of everyone was required to check their activities.

Responding, the emir said the state had passed through trying period and assured the army of continued support.

The traditional ruler said that what remained now was the ongoing effort to relocate the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from their camps to their various communities.