

# ISWAP vs Boko Haram: 'Battle for territorial supremacy claims over 54 terrorists, herders'

A battle for territorial supremacy has intensified between the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters and the Abubakar Shekau-led Boko Haram terrorists on the shores of the Lake Chad.

This is as bloody rival clashes between ISWAP and some Boko Haram terrorists from the Buduma tribe in the Niger Republic have claimed the lives of no fewer than 54 terrorists and herders within

the last one month.

An intelligence source told PRNigeria that a group of Buduma militants, March 3, embarked on a mission to loot the ISWAP units.

The source said: "The Buduma terrorists linked to Shekau's Boko Haram moved through a route along riverine border villages, popularly known as Kabul and Kandar, in the Chadian territory on two flying boats, attacking Chikka, a village administered by ISWAP between the borders of Nigeria and the Niger

Republic.

"The Shekau-linked Buduma group, on arrival at the ISWAP-occupied village, killed more than a dozen of ISWAP fighters and abducted five of their wives.

"The group also looted some items, including foodstuff before disappearing into the night."

However, the source added that ISWAP elements intercepted some of the Buduma attackers, leading to a gun battle at Kaduna Ruwa and the Kaiga axis, resulting in heavy casual-

ties on both sides.

"A few weeks later, precisely on March 17, the angry Buduma terrorists eliminated about 22 herders as well as rustled their cows for paying taxes to ISWAP rather than to the Shekau's camp.

"They also intercepted two flying boats conveying weapons for ISWAP. They killed eight gun-runners and carted away their arms and ammunition," he said.

It was learnt that the series of attacks against the ISWAP forced the leadership to draft

a plan for a decisive battle against the Budumas at Lelewa, Duwa, Wallal, Pepewa and Hauwa bulumwa villages in the Niger Republic.

The directive was allegedly given after an emergency meeting convened by the ISWAP leader, Muhammed Dawud, in the presence of their Chief Imam, Muhammad Malumma; Chief Judge, Ali Kwaya; Operation Commander, Ali Chakka and the Chief Tax Collector, Malame Musa Malmat.

Meanwhile, due to the

intense rivalry and other factors, suspicious movements of terrorists have been noticed in some local governments of Borno State.

Terrorists have been reported to be in Mobbar and Abadam communities on the Nigerian border; Ngala and Kala Balge on the Cameroonian border, and Kukawa and Marte on the Lake Chad axis. Similarly, disturbing activities are being detected and monitored at Magumeri and Gubio local government areas as well as in Damasak.

ASIPP dismisses claims