

Insecurity: 55 killed in Borno

Police confirm ISWAP killed 23 IDPs

**Atiku Galadima with
Agency report**

NO fewer than 55 people have lost their lives in series of attacks in the last three weeks by Boko Haram insurgents and suspected members of the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Borno State.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Abdu Umar made this known while speaking on the sideline of a security stakeholders' meeting on Saturday in Maiduguri. The stakeholders com-

prised Police, Army, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and Department of State Security (DSS), among others.

Umar said the insurgents killed 32 scrap metal collectors at Modu village in Kala-Balge Local Government Area, while confirming the killing of 23 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by suspected members of the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Mukdala village, located about 10 kilometres north of Dikwa town of the state on Wednesday.

Umar stated that "The story released by the media

said the victims were scavengers but the Chairman of the association of metal scavengers has confirmed that they were not members of the association of metal scavengers.

"I have interacted with the chairman of metal scavengers, and he said that they were not scavengers, but members of an IDP camp who wanted to earn a living.

"None of them were members, because members of the association were registered with the state, this should be investigated and reported accordingly.

"In Borno State, we cannot

say by estimation that the number of people that are dying is close to the number of people that have died last year. The security agencies, the military and other security Agencies are working seriously, you can now see that there are only isolated attacks and we cannot rule them out because we are coming out of the insurgency.

"The state is normalising, things are coming back to normalcy because of the efforts of the security agencies. We are in the forefront, trying to bring in peace and I can testify that there is relative peace," he added.