

Military rockets kill ISWAP 'consultation chiefs' at Lake Chad

TWO kingpins of the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP), Mallam Ali Kwaya and Mallam Bukar Mainoka, have been eliminated, **PRNigeria** has reported.

They were killed in a raid by Nigerian military fighter jets at Lake Chad on Saturday, **PRNigeria** gathered.

Kwaya and Mainoka, who were also key members of the ISWAP Shura (Consultation) Council, met their Waterloo when the Air Com-

ponent of Operation Hadin Kai conducted air interdiction missions at Belowa, one of the very few remaining ISWAP/Boko Haram enclaves in the Tumbuns, Lake Chad region in Abadam Local Government Area of Borno.

PRNigeria gathered from a military intelligence operative that their airstrikes at Belowa became necessary after intelligence revealed the convergence of some ISWAP leaders and fighters from surrounding areas for a

meeting with the motive of planning attacks on friendly forces.

According to the operative who asked not to be named, their Nigerian Air Force (NAF) fighter aircraft dispatched to the location of the terrorists' meeting at Belowa, engaged the ISWAP elements with rockets and bombs in multiple passes.

"An hour after the strikes, two vehicles conveying about 13 injured surviving terrorists to another hideout

were struck through precision strikes by NAF aircraft.

"Feedback after the strikes revealed that ISWAP kingpin, Mallam Ali Kwaya, who is a key member of the ISWAP Shura Council and Mallam Bukar Mainoka were among those neutralised in the strikes," he said.

Similar strikes, the military intelligence operative said, were also conducted on Friday at Ngwuri Gana in Bama LGA, a location East of Maiduguri.

He said: "The strikes became an expedient sequel to intelligence that a group of ISWAP insurgents in 15 trucks were spotted converging at the location.

"Feedback revealed the strike was on point as several terrorists were neutralised and all their structures and vehicles engulfed in fire."

When contacted, NAF spokesperson, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, confirmed the strikes, but refused to be drawn into the

names of those killed.

He, however, said: "Our path to victory in the North-East and North-West remains on course and we won't relent until all locations are free of terrorists and insurgents.

"Let's also not forget that the resilience of our pilots and technicians is in line with the directive of the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Amao, that terrorists and insurgents must be denied their hiding places."