

## B'Haram: Soldiers foil attempt to seize Borno community

Fidelis Soriwei, Abuja

**T**HE Nigerian troops on Saturday engaged Boko Haram insurgents who attempted to take over another community, Banki, near the nation's border with Cameroon.

It was learnt that the insurgents launched an unexpected attack on a military formation in Banki and attempted to take over control of the border community but met a stiff resistance from troops on the ground.

Investigation revealed that the insurgents, who were said to have carried out the attack from different positions, momentarily took control of the town but lost it to the hard fighting soldiers.

A security source who confided in our correspondent said that the troops killed a large number of the insurgents while others fled the area in the heat of the battle which lasted several hours.

Some soldiers were also said to have been lost in the encounter with the insurgents even as injured troops, said to be five, were taken to Maiduguri for medical attention.

The source said that the Commander of the military unit at Banki personally transported the injured men to Maiduguri for treatment.

The source said, "The members of Boko Haram attacked our soldiers on Saturday night at Banki; those guys attempted to take over Banki, which is near Nigeria's border with Cameroon.

"But, they met a strong resistance from the troops on ground. Although, I can't give you exact figures now, but the troops killed so many of them.

"In fact, it was a very hot battle; they initially gained control of the community but the soldiers fought back and recaptured the town from them.

"Of course, there are casualties on the side of the troops; I only know that five injured soldiers were taken to Maiduguri today for treatment."

When our correspondent contacted the Director of Defence Information, Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade, he asked to be given time to respond to the issue.