

ing their way into the banks.

NEMA

From Timothy Olanrewaju, Maiduguri

A technical staff of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been killed in an ambush by Boko Haram in Borno State. No fewer than 18 soldiers were also feared dead in the attack.

Boko Haram ambushed troops while they were digging trenches at Damasak,

However, on their way back, a soldier was exposed to the
contacted by some of the residents, arrived the

staff killed in Boko Haram attack

...18 soldiers feared dead

headquarters of Mobbar Local Government Area, in the northern part of Borno, on Wednesday at about 5pm, three military sources said.

An excavator operator sent from NEMA was also killed in the process, the sources revealed on condition of anonymity.

The NEMA staff was the one operating the excavator to dig trenches around the military

base and some volatile areas in the town as a security measure against Boko Haram attacks, a staff of the agency not authorised to speak told *The Sun*.

Army spokesman, Brig-Gen. Texas Chukwu, could not confirm the incident. He said he was yet to receive information about the attack.

However, NEMA, in a statement, said it mourned the death

of its staff killed in the attack.

"The director-general of the National Emergency Management Agency, Engr. Mustapha Maihaja, and the management staff have been thrown into mourning following the death of a staff who was killed by Boko Haram yesterday in Damasak, Borno State," the agency's head of media and public relations, Sani Datti, said in the statement.

He gave the name of the late staff as John Iliya, "an excavator

operator attached to the military."

"The DG has dispatched a team to Maiduguri to facilitate the return of his remains to his family," he said.

Damasak, located at the Nigeria-Niger border, is about 190 kilometres to Maiduguri, Borno's capital. The incident was not immediately known in Maiduguri due to breakdown of telecommunication facilities in the area.