

visit to Ibijoke in Lagos  
...yesterday

## Military: ISWAP equipment, logistics destroyed across Borno

Emmanuel Onani  
ABUJA

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) yesterday said a wave of destruction of equipment and logistic items operated by the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) in parts of Borno State, as well as Niger Republic, was carried out over the weekend.

According to the MNJTF, the attacks, which were successfully executed through airstrikes, left scores of the suspected terrorist elements dead.

Spokesperson for the MNJTF Col. Timothy Antigha, who made the disclosure in a statement, expressed the hope that the attacks on the fighters and their equipment would cause 'despair' within the terrorists' camp.

"ISWAP terrorists and equipment including weapons, ammunition and logistics were destroyed in Tumbum Rego over the weekend. Air interdictions conducted by MNJTF and national Air Task Forces successfully attacked and killed several fighters and knocked out equipment on Saturday, 30 August, 2019

as they prepared to launch an offensive on troops' location.

"Battle damage assessment has indicated that the air interdiction had a devastating impact, as pockets of ISWAP build up and logistics hidden under trees in Tumbum Rego have been in ruined.

"ISWAP assets in Malam Zuberu and Alagarno, were also targeted and

neutralised. Similarly, improvised explosive devices planted by ISWAP operatives in Layi Koura area of Nguigmi in Niger Republic, was discovered and defused by troops," Antigha said.

He recalled that in the past couple of weeks, suspected ISWAP suicide bombers had struck at Kaiga-Kindjiria; a rural community in the Repub-

lic of Chad, as well as Gubio in Borno State, "in an effort by ISWAP to revamp its dream of establishing a caliphate in parts of northern Nigeria and other areas of the Lake Chad Basin".

He added that; "This blow by the MNJTF will further plunge the leadership and followership of ISWAP into more despair."

## EFCC seeks final forfeiture of Diezani's \$40m jewellery

Akeem Nafiu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has asked Justice Nicholas Oweibo of a Federal High Court in Lagos to order the final forfeiture of \$40million worth of jewellery seized from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, to the Federal Government.

EFCC's lawyer, Rotimi Oyedepo, made the plea yesterday while arguing a motion seeking final forfeiture of 2,149 pieces of jewellery and a customised gold iPhone said to have been acquired by the former minister with proceeds of crime.

The judge had, on 5th July, 2019, while granting an ex-parte motion filed by the EFCC, ordered the interim forfeiture of the items to the Federal Government.

Dissatisfied, Diezani, in a motion filed through her lawyer, Prof. Awa Kalu (SAN), challenged the court's jurisdiction to make the interim order, saying she was neither charged for any offence nor served with any summons by the EFCC.

She accused the EFCC of entering her apartment illegally and taking the items without any court order, saying her "right to own property and to appropriate them at her discretion," under Sections 43 and 44 of the Consti-

tution has been violated.

However, at yesterday's proceedings, the EFCC's lawyer urged the court to make a permanent order forfeiting the items to government.

This was after he had also proffered arguments as to the need for the dismissal of Diezani's motion challenging court's jurisdiction to make the interim forfeiture order for being an abuse of court's process.

According to Oyedepo, Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, No 14 of 2006, empowered the court to make the interim forfeiture order and as such, the court's jurisdiction is unquestionable.

ber; EPT/BO/SEN/1/2019 before the tribunal.

They are challenging the declaration of Ndume of All Progressive Congress (APC) as winner of the Borno South senatorial district election conducted on February 23, 2019.

APC and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were also joined in the suit.

Delivering judgement yesterday, Justice Peter Kekemeke, chairman of the tribunal, held that the petitioners failed to prove their allegations beyond reasonable doubt.

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reasonable doubt.

Kekemeke added that the petitioners did not demonstrate before the court the procedures for accreditation, neither the difference between the numbers of votes shown in the evidence and the alterations made, nor evidence linking to the allegations of malpractice.

"In totality, the petitioners have failed to prove their case in the preponderance of evidence and balance of probability so that they will be entitled for the judgement; neither any case of malpractice was proven beyond reasonable doubt."

## NCC boss to speak at ITU Telecom World 2019

Executive Vice-Chairman (EVC), Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Danbatta, has been listed as one of the global ICT experts to speak at key forums during the forthcoming ITU Telecom World 2019.

The yearly event, organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), brings together global players in ICT to discuss issues affecting the industry.

This year's edition of the event was scheduled to hold in Budapest, Hungary

pore, Keng Thai Leong and Ghana's Minister of Communications, Ursula Owusu Ekuful.

ITU is a specialised United Nations (UN) agency that coordinates telecommunications operations and services throughout the world. Originally founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organisation.

Nigeria joined ITU on April 11, 1961, and had participated in most ITU Telecom World events since then, and was