

Army launches special campaign against insurgents

By Ronald Mutum

Defence headquarters yesterday said it has intensified campaign to stop insurgent attacks in the north eastern part of the country.

The Director Defence Information, Major General Chris Olukolade, while briefing journalists in Abuja yesterday said the new approaches include increase in patrols and the mobility of soldiers in the region.

According to him, "the specialised campaign which has commenced is being undertaken simultaneously in Yobe, Borno and

Adamawa states."

He added that, the operation is in furtherance of efforts at apprehending the insurgents and ensuring they do not escape from Nigeria.

General Olukolade stated that in the course of their flight towards various borders, the terrorist attacked some parts of Adamawa State Wednesday night in desperation for money and food.

He explained that they looted and burnt banks, shops and filling stations along their way through Michika as they headed for the Cameroon border.

"Six of their fighters were killed, two captured while nine of their vehicles were destroyed; one soldier and three civilians also died in the encounter," he said.

"It is believed that those involved in this latest attacks are the elements that perpetrated the mayhem against students of Federal Government College, Buni-Yadi, Yobe State and other places," he added.

He also said the reports that soldiers were withdrawn at check points close to targeted communities were incorrect, adding troops deployed in counter insurgency operations are always on mobile patrol and not static.

■ From left: Book presenter, Prof. Ben Nwabueze; Prof. Elo Amucheazi and Sen. Offiah Nwali, during the presentation of two books about the "Igbos Position to the National Conference" in Enugu yesterday.

PHOTO: NAN

