

Troops kill 20 bandits in Zamfara

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The 223 Light Tank Battalion of the Nigerian Army has killed 20 bandits and recovered 12 rifles after a fierce encounter with the armed bandits this morning, the commanding officer in Gusau, Lieutenant Colonel Abdullahi Adamu Aliyu has said.

Colonel Adamu said the bandits were engaged from multiple fronts around the general area of Babbar Doka, Ruwan Tofa and Malele all in Dansadau district of Maru local government area of Zamfara State. He said they also had an encounter with them at Madaba and Yar Wutsiya villages.

"The operation is on-going and intensified. It is part of the army's strategy to rid this state of bandits. Our morale is high and we are recording success. You know we are deployed to every part of the state because the armed banditry and cattle rustling is spread across the state and we have to deal with these criminals from multiple fronts," He said.

He said the operation was being carried out jointly by the Army, the Police, DSS and other sister security agencies, adding that the commissioner of police had sent his men to the battle field and a lot of recoveries were being made.

He further explained that dozens of motorbikes had been seized from the armed bandits but that the main concern of the operation was to either kill the bandits or capture them alive and have their weapons confiscated as the possession of arms was giving them the courage to wreak havoc on communities.

"Two of those killed are key commanders. One is called Buzu and other is known as Aliyu Rana Da kaya. So it has been a good day or week to us. We have also repelled attacks on some of the communities they had earlier planned to attack," he said.