

200 terrorists killed in Niger – Official

By Abubakar Akote, Minna

About 200 terrorists have been killed by security operatives in the last four days in Niger State.

The state's Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Internal Security, Emmanuel Umar, disclosed this yesterday while briefing newsmen on the security situation in the state.

Umar said the operatives comprised the military, police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and local vigilantes in the state.

He added that many of the terrorists fled with bullet wounds during the onslaught launched by the security operatives.

Umar called on the communities to continue to provide credible

intelligence to aid the security operation.

He said four banditry groups were operating in the state and led by Bello Turji, Yellow Janbros, Kachalla Halilu and Ali Kawaje.

He said commanders of the groups were among those neutralised.

He attributed the success to the new strategies deployed by the state government with support from the communities.

Umar said two security operatives paid the supreme price during the encounters.

The commissioner said several motorbikes, cattle and rifles were recovered from the terrorists.

Our correspondent gathered that the terrorists were killed at Kundu axis, a border community between Rafi and Mariga local government areas and Bamba-

Lamba community in Kontagora Local Government Area.

A resident of Bamba-Lamba, Hashimu Ahmed, said the terrorists later returned after the onslaught to evacuate the remains of their dead colleagues.

He said the terrorists blocked Kontagora-Mariga Road during the evacuation, killed eight persons and burnt two vehicles, including a truck loaded with cement.

"Security operatives recorded success against the criminals. They engaged them around my community. But the criminals came back later in the night on reprisal. They packed the corpses of their colleagues and set many houses ablaze in Bamba-Lamba community. They later blocked Kontagora-Mariga Road around 7 pm, and killed a motorcyclist and seven other travellers," he said.