

Troops of the operation on June 3 said it had conducted an intelligence-based operation along the borders between Plateau and Taraba states. The operation according to the operation was based on a tip-off about plans by bandits to attack communities in Kampani Zurak in Wase Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

Major Zhakom said during the operation, troops made contact with the criminals at their concentration area at Dutsen Zaki High Ground in Wase LGA of Plateau State. In an exchange of fire, troops neutralised one of the bandits while others fled with gunshot wounds.

### **Operation continues Friday – vigilante**

Leaders of the vigilante group in Wase have vowed that the fight against bandits in the villages of Wase will continue on Friday, explaining that they have no option but to force the armed men to leave the forest.

Hussaini, a key participant in the ongoing operation, stated, “The bandits have been entrenched in the forest for numerous years, terrorising our communities, which has necessitated our decisive action against them. We have no choice but to confront them head-on. The operation will persist tomorrow and beyond until every last bandit flees the forest and our area is secure.”

### **Community calls for deployment of security personnel**

Members of various communities in Wase have urged the federal and state governments to deploy security personnel to secure their areas, warning that gunmen will continue to attack them and steal their belongings if action is not taken to address the problem.

They added that they have become vulnerable and can be attacked at any moment.

Shapi’i Sambo, the youth leader in Wase, said, “ We plead with the relevant authorities to heed our cry for help. Life has become increasingly miserable for community members. The pervasive insecurity has reached a point where people can neither rear livestock nor tend to their farms without fearing for their lives. The uncertainty and fear of the unknown have gripped our community, and we desperately need intervention to restore peace and stability.”

Ismail Musa, another resident of Wase, appealed to the government to take security measures to restore law and order in the area, saying they are now living under siege by bandits.

He said, “We urgently implore the government to deploy security personnel to our community, as our lives are undeniably in danger. The current state of insecurity has crippled our daily activities, and business can no longer continue as usual. We plead with the government to take immediate action to restore law and order in our community.”