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Troops kill six terrorists, rescue 33 hostages in Borno

By Njadvara Musa
(Maiduguri) and Matthew
Ogune (Abuja)
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Photo credit: AFP/SUNDAY AGHAEZE

• Governors to meet service chiefs over insecurity

Troops of the Operation Lafiya Dole in the North East have killed six terrorists and rescued 33 hostages during a clearance patrol of Damboa and Bama council areas of Borno State.

The soldiers, who were deployed from 242, 151 battalions and 21 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, also recovered six AK-47 rifles and arms during the military exercise.

The Director of Army Public Relations, Brig-Gen. Texas Chukwu, in a statement yesterday in Maiduguri, said the recovery followed a coordinated exchange of gunfire where the captives were successfully freed at Bulabulin and Falamari villages.



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He said: “Troops of 151 Battalion while on patrol along Myanti-Darel Jamel Road in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State encountered some Boko Haram terrorists. One of the insurgents was neutralised during the encounter.”

Chukwu went on: “Troops of 21 Brigade while on clearance operation at Yerimari Gana and Darel Salam villages in the outskirts of Bama Local Government Area of Borno State neutralised one Boko Haram terrorist.

“Items recovered include one AK 47 rifle, one Magazine, 26 rounds of 7.62 mm (special) ammunition, three improvised rounds of ammunition, three pairs of military uniform and one solar panel.

“Thirty three persons, comprising eight men, 12 women and 13 children, were also rescued by the troops during the operation.”

The spokesman said the rescued captives had been profiled and handed over to the appropriate authorities.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) is to meet with service chiefs over the prevailing insecurity in the country.

Briefing newsmen yesterday in Abuja after a closed-door meeting, the forum's chairman and governor of Zamfara State, Abdul Aziz Yari, decried the recent killings on the Plateau and the current state of security nationwide.

According to Yari, the governors will continue to engage the Federal Government and leaderships of the Nigerian Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Nigeria Custom Services (NCS) and other security agencies to curb leakages, hoarding, diversion, smuggling and illegal hike in ex-depot or retail pump price to safeguard the nation's energy security.

His words: “Governors unanimously called for the prosecution of perpetrators of the attacks and resolved to find a quick and common solution to the security crisis. The Forum has also resolved to pay a condolence visit to Plateau to commiserate with the government and people of the state.

“The Forum also received a presentation from the Executive Vice Chairman (EVC)/ Chief Executive of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Professor Umar Dambatta, on broadband development in Nigeria.”

“Governors acknowledged the importance of broadband deployment for both economic development and revenue generation and pledged to work closely with the commission and infrastructure companies to remove impediments to broadband deployment, including unifying rights of way charges as well as addressing multiple regulation and taxation.”

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