

# Troops kill three bandits, rescue 16 abductees in Kaduna

From **Saxone Akhaine** and **Abdulganiyu Alabi**, Kaduna

**Firearms, explosive, motorcycles recovered**

**T**ROOPS of Operation Forest Sanity (OPFS) have neutralised three bandits and rescued 16 abducted citizens in operations spanning Birnin Gwari/Kaduna Road and a location in Igabi Local Council of Kaduna State.

The Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, made this known in a statement, yesterday.

He said: "The troops responded to a distress call along the Udawa-Manini axis of Birnin Gwari/Kaduna Road. The troops arrived to

foil the attack, rescuing 15 persons in the process. Some of the rescued persons, who sustained injuries, were rushed to hospital for treatment."

Similarly, Aruwan stated that troops also responded to a distress call from Gonan Doctor village, Igabi, and laid ambush at a likely crossing point in Maraban Huda village.

According to Aruwan, contact was made with the bandits, and following a fire-fight, one was neutralised.

He noted in the statement:

"A victim of kidnap was rescued, though injured by the bandits, and was rushed to Jaji Cantonment Hospital for treatment. One motorcycle was recovered.

"Further, in response to credible intelligence of bandits' movement around an inter-state boundary, troops of OPFS set up ambush around Mangoro area around Chikun/Birnin Gwari, on the boundary with Shiroro of neighbouring Niger State."

The Guardian gathered that the troops engaged the

approaching bandits and neutralised two of them.

"The troops also recovered one AK-47 rifle, one pump action gun, one Improvised Explosive Device (IED), one Baofeng Radio, and 10 motorcycles.

"Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna received the reports with gratitude, and expressed satisfaction at the breakthroughs recorded by the security forces. The governor commended the troops for the successful operation and prayed for the quick recovery of injured victims," Aruwan stated.