

# Zamfara confirms killing of two hoodlums as Defence probes banditry sponsorship claims

From Orita Sunday, Abuja

**T**HE Defence Headquarters, yesterday, said investigations were actively underway into allegations of banditry sponsorship in the North West region.

This was in reaction to the war of words between the Minister of State for Defence and immediate past governor of Zamfara, Bello Matawalle, and his successor, Dauda Lawal, who have lately accused each other of sponsoring bandits.

On Tuesday, Matawalle challenged Lawal to swear with the Holy Qur'an that he was not involved in the sponsorship of bandits.

In response, Lawal vowed to release evidence against the minister, adding that he had also reported the matter to the National Security Adviser. When asked about the military's role regarding the allegations involving two influential Nigerians, the Director of Media Operations,

Major General Edward Buba, stated at a press briefing that relevant agencies tasked with such responsibilities are diligently investigating the matter, though he did not mention any names.

He said: "And when you talk about what's going on about the sponsors, I can assure you that the relevant agencies that are saddled with that responsibility are doing a good job. And sooner than later, you will hear some announcements in that

regard."

Buba said notwithstanding, the military was focused on winning the war against banditry, and has focused on destroying their fighting will.

**S**IMILARLY, two bandit kingpins, Sani Black and Kachalla Makore, have been confirmed killed in Zamfara.

The two hoodlums were responsible for attacks in the Dansadai district and environs, as well as other parts of the Maru Local Council of the state.