

## Air strikes on terrorists hideouts kill over 20 in Katsina

THE Air Component of the Operation Fansan Yamma has killed over 20 terrorists in air strikes that decimated notorious bandit hideouts in Unguwar Goga Hill-Forest in Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.

This was contained in a statement by the Deputy Director, Public Relations and Information, Group Captain Kabiru Ali, on Saturday in Abuja.

Ali said that the airstrikes, executed in the early hours of Thursday, preceded careful and actionable intelligence.

He said that the Nigeria Air

Force advanced purposeful lethality destroyed the fortified camps of notorious bandit kingpins, Gero (Alhaji) and Alhaji Riga; thus, killing over 20 criminals, with additional casualties reported in the surrounding rocky hills.

According to him, the airstrikes have a decisive impact on the criminals, even as the assessment of the full extent of the damage is still ongoing.

"Riga and Gero were key enablers of banditry, sheltering terrorist elements responsible for relentless ambushes along the Funtua-Gusau Road, par-

ticularly between Yankara and Sheme villages.

"Their elimination marks a major breakthrough in the ongoing military campaign to restore peace in the North-West.

"The NAF, in coordination with ground forces, remains relentless in its mission to eradicate all threats and dismantle bandit strongholds," he said.

Abdullahi said the corpse had been deposited at the General Hospital Kaltungo.

He said that preliminary investigation revealed that the

deceased left home on Thursday to fetch firewood from the nearby bush, adding that further investigation would unravel the root cause of the unfortunate incident.

However, a source at the deceased's family, who pleaded anonymity, alleged that the girl was impregnated by her boyfriend, a development which enraged her parents.

The source said the girl was discovered to have been visiting her lover, and became pregnant during an interaction between the parents and the boyfriend.