

Troops kill four militia men in Bauchi

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•12 herdsmen arrested in Benue

The Army yesterday said troops on Operation *Lafiya Dole* in the Northeast killed four members of a militia gang in Bauchi State.

A statement by the Director of Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Texas Chukwu, said they were killed in Ningi Local Government Area.

Nine members of the gang were arrested while a soldier was injured. He was taken to a military hospital.

The statement reads: “Troops of 33 Artillery Brigade on Operation *Lafiya Dole*, about 12.30pm on March 17, encountered members of a militia group massing up at Burra Junction in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

“The criminals, on sighting own troops, opened fire and a gun battle ensued. Four of them were killed.

“Troops recovered five Dane guns, 38 motorcycles and nine bicycles. Nine members of the militia group were also arrested while a soldier, who sustained injuries, was taken to the hospital.

“Troops are in pursuit of the fleeing militias to arrest others.”

Special Forces Brigade of Exercise Cat Race in Benue State also arrested 12 herdsmen destroying farmland.

Chukwu, in a statement in Abuja, said the culprits were arrested when the Presidential Assessment team visited Mbayer/Yandev and Kaabee wards.

The statement reads: “Troops of 707 Special Forces Brigade taking part in the *Ex Ayem Akpatuma* arrested 12 herdsmen on March 17 for destroying farmlands.

“The suspects were arrested when the Presidential Assessment Team to Mbayer/Yandev and Kaambee wards visited Benue State.

“Two motorcycles were recovered from the suspects when their hideout was searched. The herdsmen were handed over to the police for further action.

“Similarly, troops on patrol in the general area of Chembe, Tse-Gundu, Tse-lordye and Sbaor settlements sighted two herdsmen on motorcycle on the Kwata Shaor river bank. The herdsmen however abandoned their motorcycle and fled.

“On searching the general area, one round of 7.62mm special was discovered. Troops continue to dominate the general area with patrols.

“Troops continue to maintain vigilance and dominate the general area with patrols.”

