

# One soldier killed as troops neutralise scores of bandits in Sokoto

## Soldiers kill three terrorists in Borno

**T**ROOPS have neutralised scores of bandits and kidnappers in Sokoto State.

Ransom collectors as well as informants working for them were also arrested, the Army said yesterday.

Its spokesman, Col. Sagir Musa, in a statement yesterday, however, said a soldier was killed during the encounter.

He said: "In continuation of ongoing offensive operations against armed banditry and other criminal activities within Sokoto State and its environs, troops of Operation Harbin Kunama III on June 23, 2019 while on routine aggressive patrol to Danboa village intercepted some notorious bandit's informants and logistics suppliers at Burkusuma market in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

"The troops acting on credible intelligence report, raided the location and apprehended the criminals, who were transacting in the market.

"Notable among them were: Mallam Ibrahim, confirmed to be a notorious bandits informant and collaborator renowned for collecting ransom on behalf of the bandits; Mallam Ashiru Goni, confirmed to be another notorious bandits courier agent who specialises in transporting logistics for

**T**HE Army said yesterday that troops have neutralised three Boko Haram terrorists in different clearance operations in the Northeast and also rescued 95 hostages from them.

Its Director of Public Relations, Col. Sagir Musa, in a statement yesterday, said among those rescued are children and women who were being used for farming during the raining season.

The statement reads: "In continuation of the ongoing clearance operations, tagged: 'Halaka Dodo', within Sector 1 Operation Lafiya Dole, the troops of 112 Task Force Battalion and 22 Brigade in collaboration with members of the Civilian Joint Task Force and vigilante group had on Saturday, June 22, 2019, conducted a robust clearance operation to Kobe and Boboshe villages.

"The troops discovered newly established camps at Dubula village with some bicycles and motorcycle tracks. The camp was destroyed and one of the terrorists was neutralised while trying to escape.

"The following items were recovered: Two terrorists' flags, two copies of the Quran, One Generator Set and two bicycles. Additionally, 13 women and 26 children were rescued

## •95 hostages rescued

From Blessing Olaifa, Abuja

during the operation.

"24 out of the children rescued were administered with polio vaccines by Nigerian Army Regimental Medical Officers in line with the Chief of Army Staff directive on the collaboration between the Nigerian Army and National Primary Health Care Development Agency to reach out to areas not captured in the polio vaccination exercise.

"Similarly, the Acting Commanding Officer of 202 Battalion in conjunction with Civilian Joint Task Force, vigilante and hunters group conducted a robust offensive clearance operation to Tafana 1 and Tafana 2 villages.

"The troops came in contact with some terrorists who fled their camps on sighting the approach of the ferocious troops in Mines Resistance Anti Patrol vehicles. Troops also neutralised the fleeing terrorists. During the operation, two men, 29 women and 25 children were also rescued.

"Other items recovered include two boxes filled with Quran, two terrorists' flags, five bicycles, five SIM cards of different networks and assorted clothing materials."

From Blessing Olaifa, Abuja

bandits within and outside Sokoto State; and Mamman Taratse, a confirmed logistician for the criminals, who specialises in the sale of rustled cattle at various markets

within and outside Sokoto State.

"Similarly, troops in response to complaints of bandits' activities at Magira village, stormed and raided the location and engaged the bandits in a fierce battle.

"Consequently, the troops pursued the bandits to their hideouts, killing scores, while several others escaped with gunshot injuries. Unfortunately, one soldier paid the supreme price during the encounter."

Motorcycle inherited from Boko Haram