

Troops kill terrorists' leader, three others in Katsina

TROOPS on operation in Katsina State have killed a terrorist leader, popularly known as Maikusa, and three of his foot soldiers.

Maikusa and his cohorts were killed during a "ferocious operation" on Monday in Kurfi and Safana Local Government Areas of the state.

Maikusa was the second-in-command in the hierarchy of the terrorists' led by a kingpin known as Modi Modi, in Katsina State.

Army spokesperson, Maj.-Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu who announced this in a statement yesterday, said the operation also resulted in the successful clearance of terrorists' enclaves in the areas.

He said: "During the operation, troops encountered vehement resistance from the violent extremists, but gallantly overpowered the terrorists with superior firepower neutralizing some while others fled in disarray."

• There's comprehensive security strategy against terrorism, says Defence Minister

By Precious Igbonwelundu and Musa Umar Bologi, Abuja

According to Nwachukwu, after the firefight, the troops recovered two AK-47 rifles, three magazines, 65 rounds of 7.62 mm special ammunition, a locally fabricated gun and camouflage uniform.

He said the troops also destroyed terrorists' camps in Wurma, Shaikawa, Yauni, and Dogon Marke villages in Kurfi local government area, as well as Ummadau and Zakka villages in Safana local government area.

"The troops have continued to maintain an aggressive posture in the general area to clear remnants of the terrorists cell to ensure safety and security in the region," Nwachukwu said.

Relatedly, the Defence Minister.

Muhammad Badaru, yesterday said the government had unwavering commitment to defeating terrorism and insurgency, noting that it entailed a comprehensive security strategy and community engagement.

Badaru stated this on the sides of a seminar organized by the Senior Course 46, Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC), Jaji, in Kaduna.

The minister who earlier addressed the participants, told newsmen during an interview that at least seven top terrorists leaders had been killed by troops in the past few months.

The theme for the seminar was "Imperatives of Operational and Tactical Level Leadership for Enhanced Counter Terrorism, Counter Insurgency Operations in

Nigeria".

Badaru said: "The government's commitment to defeating insurgency is a comprehensive security strategy and community engagement remains unwavering."

"We are pursuing a whole-of-the-government approach in handling the counter-insurgency and anti-banditry operations."

According to him, there was improvement in the fight against insurgency.

"We cannot be able to put boots in every corner of the country, so as every other country." "The military is not enough. What the bandits do is take advantage of soft targets. "They find out where there is an absence of the military, they attack and run to the bushes," he said.

Badaru stressed that the military was following them up and would defeat them.

He disclosed that the military would deploy technology for surveillance and tracking to find the terrorists and deal with them decisively.