

## News

From ALIYU MODIBBO,  
Yola

ABOUT 40 armed robbers last weekend stormed Daulayi village in Namtari District of Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State and wiped out a family of three.

Reports from the area said

those killed included the leader of the vigilante group in the area, Malam Bappaji, his wife and daughter.

During the operation, the bandits, said to have when arrived the village, immediately

blocked all entries to the village before carrying out their deadly act, which lasted several hours.

According to reports, the bandits shot dead the wife and daughter of Bappaji before kill-

## ...kill family of 3

ing him (Bappaji), who is said to be a very strong and fearful vigilante group leader by the

armed robbers.

The armed robbers, a report said, have been working on series of strategies on how to eliminate the vigilante group leader but to no avail; but at the weekend succeeded in getting him at his house where they killed him and his family.

An eyewitness, who pleaded anonymity, told our reporter that the bandits on getting to the deceased's house, tried all types of weapons to kill him but failed, until they overpowered the late Bappaji, tied him with a rope and set him ablaze.

Reports said the armed robbers waited until the late vigilante group leader was burnt to ashes before they left the village with pride that "we have now gotten him".

Most people our reporter interviewed near the scene of the incident expressed their shock over the killing of the late Bappaji whom they described as a gallant crime fighter in not only the village but also the entire Namtari district and environs.

They then called on the security agents to apprehend the culprits and intensify their fight against crimes in the state.

Other people in the area also opined that the late Bappaji was killed due to his fierce battle with robbers in the area who regarded him as an obstacle to their operations.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Adamawa State, ASP Bilyaminu Usman, who confirmed the robbery operation said investigations have begun to apprehend those behind the incident.

This is the third in the series of armed robbery operations that took place within one week in the area.

Three days to the latest one at Namtari District, armed robbers had also killed one person and wounded another in an operation along Mayo Belwa - Mayo - Farank road.

It could also be recalled that armed robbers numbering about 10 attacked and killed a security man and wounded a police sergeant attached to the Mayo Belwa branch of First Bank of Nigeria Plc. However, no money was stolen at the bank during that operation.



Mrs Mariam Abdullahi, President/Founder of Woman for Peace in Nigeria, speaking with newsmen during the celebration of Day of the African Child at the Township Stadium, Kaduna ... recently. Photo: DAVID G. ONOJA

## Vigilante group combs Adamawa for colleague's killers

SOME 500 vigilante group members from Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State have arrived Adamawa State to comb for the suspected killers of one of their colleagues.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the group, which arrived the state last Thursday made Sangare village in Yola South Local Government Area their operational headquarters.

The group's head of operations Baushe Aremi told NAN at Sangare that their aim was to arrest the 40 bandits that allegedly killed one late Bappaji on August 4.

Aremi said the group decided that the bandits should be apprehended to stop further attacks by bandits and robbers on its members.

He described their mission as "vengeance", assuring its members that the killers of late Bappaji, the leader of the group in Yola North and South local governments would be arrested and handed over to the police.

Aremi said the group already had the names of the suspects that killed late Bappaji and their accomplice in Adamawa,

Borno, Gombe, Bauchi, Taraba and Yobe states.

He said seven suspects had been arrested and handed over to the police while the group was still combing the state for others.

Aremi said the group, with the assistance of mobile policemen had combed Malabu, Gurin, Barkin Saje, Mayo-Belwa, Ngure, parts of Jada and Ganye in Adamawa and Zing Local Government Area in Taraba.

A competent source at the police headquarters told NAN

under anonymity that the group was invited by the command.

The source added that it was part of the effort to scale down banditry in Adamawa State.

When contacted on phone, an aide to Mr. Aloysius Okorie, the Commissioner of Police, said his boss was very busy and could not comment on the matter.

NAN recalls that some 40 armed men had on August 4, allegedly killed the late Bappaji, his wife and daughter at Doulabi village in Namtari District, Yola South Local Government Area.

Okorie had on Monday in Yola told journalists that "We have given the vigilante group the backing to ensure that the perpetrators are arrested."

retaries and other top government officials also decided that all major activities of government including developmental initiatives and policy formu-

good governance that will continue to make Ogun a state of happy people, thriving businesses and good infrastructure.

## Ogun moves towards self-sufficiency

OGUN State has restated its determination to be self-sufficient by significantly reducing its dependence on federal allocations.

## Gombe gets 2,500 hajj seats

From ABUBAKAR M.  
ABBA, Gombe

THE Secretary, Gombe State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Alkali says the National Hajj Commission (NHC) has allocated 2,500 seats to the state for this year's pilgrimage.

Alkali told *New Nigerian* in Gombe, that the figure increased from the 2,000 seats allocated to the state last year. He said intending pilgrims from the state will pay 444,000 Naira for maximum fares, while the sum of 354,000 Naira is for the minimum fare.

Alkali emphasized the need for intending pilgrims to pay their fares on time to enable

the board to meet the dead line for remittance of fares to the National Hajj Commission in Abuja.

The secretary expressed optimism that the board will exhaust its allocation with the influx of people coming to pay their fares to enable them to perform the hajj obligation.

He observed that the increase in the fares and the increase in the BTA would enable pilgrims to have enough to use in feeding and other utilities while in the Holy land.

On accommodation, he said the state still maintains its usual accommodation at Masfalah in Mecca. Masfalah is close to Al-haram.