

Troops rescue 59 women, 95 children hostages, kill 5 insurgents

TROOPS of Operation Lafiya Dole have rescued 149 persons held hostage by Boko Haram insurgents.

The captives comprising 54 women and 95 children were rescued by troops on Saturday in an operation aimed at smoking out insurgents in Yerimari Kura community on Sambisa axis.

A statement issued by the Deputy Director, Public Relations, Theatre Command Operation Lafiya Dole, Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu, said the rescued hostages were receiving treatment at the 21 Brigade Medical Centre.

The clearance operations in Yerimari Kura, it was gathered, also claimed three Boko Haram insurgents with five captured.

In another counter-terrorism operation, on Saturday, troops also intercepted and neutralised two suicide bombers, while on patrol in Konduga.

The two suicide bombers were strapped with suicide vests in a failed attempt to infiltrate Mandanari Community in Konduga, Borno State, before the troops en-

gaged them from a distance.

The engagement, it was learnt, compelled the suicide bombers to detonate their suicide vests, resulting in their death while three persons were injured.

In another development, the Nigerian Army has denied alleged reports that it had begun phased withdrawal of troops on internal

security operations in some parts of the country.

The army, in a statement by the Director, Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Texas Chukwu, maintained that it remained committed to its internal security operations, adding that it would continue to checkmate all forms of criminality across the country.

The army, however, noted that it was imperative for governors and chairmen of local government areas to help reduce incidences of criminal acts by providing basic social and developmental infrastructures.

In a clearance operation on Saturday, troops of the 72 Battalion Special Forces

engaged armed militia in a firefight leading to the killing of one herdsman, with one sustaining gunshot wounds, while three others were arrested.

In the operation carried out in Gbajimba, Baka, Tomanyi, Iyode and Dogon Yashi in Benue State, one AK-47 assault rifle was recovered.

Similarly, two other herdsman engaged in destruction of farmlands were arrested at Chembe Community.

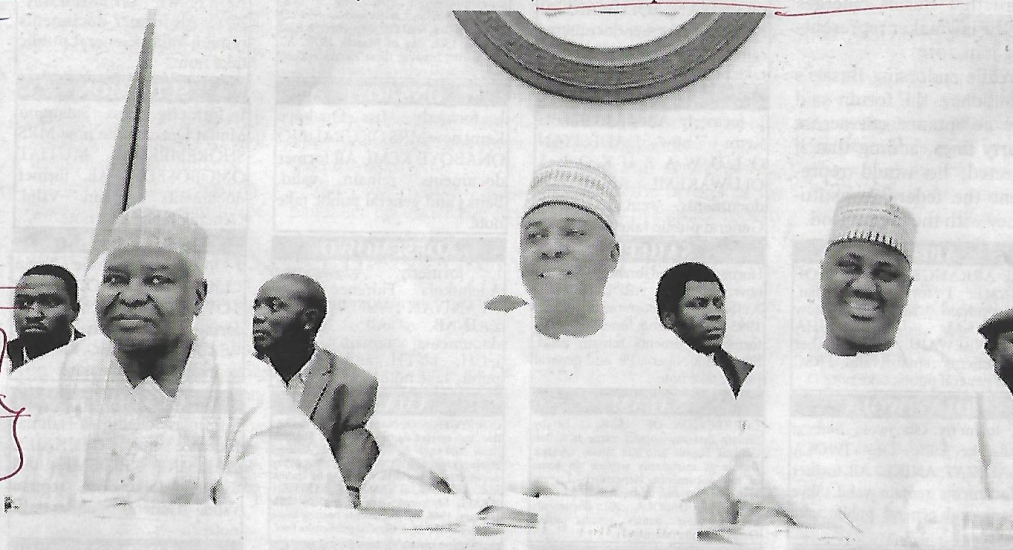
Earlier, troops on patrol in Jatoaka town, effected the arrest of 10 robbery suspects linked to a robbery incident.

Similarly, in Taraba State, troops of 101 Special Battalion conducted clearance operation on Suntai-Mu Kungana Road, where they moved against bandits who had barricaded the road.

"The bandits fled into the bush during engagement with own troops. By a search of the general area, led to the recovery of a damaged gun."

Similarly, the Army said that it had mandated patrols to continuously frustrate bandits and to deny them freedom of action on Abuj Kaduna Road.

Also, a Boko Haram suspect who surrendered to troops in Sambisa forest, said to be currently undergoing interrogation at 2 Task Force Brigade.



Senate President, Dr Bukola Saraki (middle), with the chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (right) and the deputy governor of Plateau State, Professor Gwanle Tyoden, during the 2018 Senate Press Corps Retreat in Jos, Plateau State, at the weekend.

Niger Poly to hold first convocation in 12 years