

Driver gets N2m reward for killing two bandits in Zamfara

A commercial vehicle driver (name withheld), on Tuesday, received N2 million as reward from the Zamfara State government for killing two armed bandits last week, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* has reported.

Handing over the money on behalf of the state government in his office, the state Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Bello Dankande, said the gesture was in fulfillment of the state governor's pledge to give N1 million on each AK-47 rifle seized from bandits.

NAN reported that the driver ran into the two bandits along Gidan Jaja/Gurbin Bore Road of Zurmi Local Government Area of the state in the night.

He said the incident happened when the bandits were attempting to cross the road with their rifles on their

shoulders, and he hit them, killing them instantly.

Similarly, two other communities benefited from the same gesture of N1 million each, having apprehended two bandits, seized their

guns and handed them over to security agents.

The commissioner restated the state government's commitment to continue to give rewards, noting that "the state government is ready to

give N100 million to any person or group that collects 100 AK-47 and we will continue to improve on the security of all communities in the state."

He said with the additional engagement of 500 youths

from each of the 17 emirate councils of the state, who were expected to complement the efforts of conventional security agents, the days of the bandits were numbered in the state.

Court frees 16 Chinese, 10 Nigerians charged with illegal mining

A Federal High Court in Jos, Plateau State, on Tuesday, discharged and acquitted 26 persons charged with illegal mining at Zurak in Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* has reported.

Giving ruling, Justice Musa Kurya, said: "based on the application moved by Mr Victor Joshua and which was not opposed, the case is hereby dismissed".

"The 26 accused persons are hereby discharged and acquitted."

The judge then ordered that all their documents, including their passports in possession of the court, be released to them with immediate effect.

The prosecution had alleged that the crime was committed between 2015 and 2017.

The prosecution also averred that the men had disposed poisonous minerals, committed offences punishable under Miscellaneous Offences Act of Nigeria 2004.

Earlier, Joshua told the

court on his intention to withdraw the charges against the defendants on the instruction of the government.

According to him, the government was no longer interested in prosecuting the case.

"I have received a directive from the Attorney General of Federation and the Minister of Justice, Mr Abubakar Malami, ordering me to withdraw the case against all the 26 accused persons.

"This directive is in pursuant to Section 108 of Ad-

ministration of Criminal Justice Act, and I hereby wish to make a formal application for the withdrawal of the case against all the accused persons.

"By this directive, the defendants are not illegal miners and all the charges against them are hereby dropped and all their documents, collected in respect to this case, be returned to them," Joshua stated.

Mr Joseph Danboyi who held the brief of Mr Paul Erokoro (SAN), counsel to the defendants, did not ob-

ject to the application.

"My lord, by this good and positive development, we have no reason to object but celebrate it in its totality.

"This is the reason we are in court, to tell the world that the defendants have done no wrong against the state.

"We are extremely happy that they have been vindicated. From today, all the 26 accused persons are free people, who can go and continue with their businesses without any fear," Danboyi said.

Law Of Lagos State, 2015.

The magistrate, Mrs Ejoro Kubeinje, granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000, with one surety in like sum.

Kubeinje ordered that the surety must reside within the court jurisdiction with the evidence of tax payments.

The magistrate adjourned the case till December 2.