

Banditry: Troops kill 59, arrest camp leader in Zamfara

·Lose four soldiers, recover 400 cows

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THE military operations of Hadarin Daji in Zamfara State have led to the killing of 59 bandits, including a notorious camp leader, a.k.a emir. Four soldiers also died in the process, while 400 cows were recovered.

The troops succeeded in the recovery of arms and ammunition, motorcycles, jerrycans of petrol and drinks from the bandits.

A statement issued on Sunday by the acting information Officer Operation Hadarin Daji, Captain Ayobami Oni-Orisan, described the operations as tremendous success.

In continuation of the ongoing intensive clearance operations against bandits in Zamfara State, the troops have continued to record tre-

mendous success against the criminal elements and unrepentant bandits," Oni-Orisan said.

According to him, on October 3, troops deployed at Sunke in Anka Local Government Area went under unprovoked attack by bandits, despite the ongoing peace process in the state.

He said the troops successfully repelled the attack, killing 19 bandits in the process but that four soldiers lost their lives during the encounter.

He disclosed that following their encounter, troops further commenced aggressive clearance operations named 'Operation Mushare' on October 6, with a view to apprehending the recalcitrant bandits.

"Consequently, within Bawa Daji general area, three heavily-fortified camps at Gubarawa, Bawa Daji and

Bawa Daji Forest were destroyed," he added.

Oni-Orisan maintained that the troops overpowered the bandits, overrun the three camps and killed 39 bandits, including their leader known as Emir.

He revealed that items recovered were three AK-47 rifles, 421 x 7.62mm (special) ammunition, 30 PKT rifle rounds, 10 magazines, five motorcycles, 177 cows, seven handsets, two handset batteries, substance suspected to be cannabis sativa and charms.

The statement added: Similarly, in continuation with the offensive against bandits, clearance operations were also extended to the general area of Kuruwa, Kawara, Kalahe and Zango villages in Bawa Daji.

Area where troops encountered a large number of marauders at their camp in

Zango village on October 8.

The troops also arrested a suspected bandit, Abubakar Umar, on the road in Lam-ba-Damri axis with N400,000 presumably for purchase of bandits' logistic supplies.

"The suspect will be handed over to the civil police for further investigation and necessary action.

"Also on October 9, troops deployed in Anka general area, based on intelligence report, intercepted and arrested suspected bandits' logistics suppliers named Lawali Umar and Jamilu Liman around Kuru village in Anka.

"They purchased some logistics items for onward movement to the bandits' camps. The troops recovered four jerry cans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), one can of malt, three packets of soft drinks and one packet of nutri milk."

Further based on intelli-

gence report that indicated that bandits were seen crossing with some rustled cows at Daki Takwas in Anka Oni Orisan said troops of 'Operation Hadarin Daji' were deployed. The criminals fled and abandoned the rustled cows in the area.

He said, "Troops pursued the fleeing criminals and successfully killed 20 of them and recovered two motorcycles, six magazines, 160 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition and many links, 60 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and 296 cows.

He maintained that the onslaught against banditry and all other criminal activities would continue until banditry is effectively combated.

"Troops will continue to remain highly committed and professional in carrying out the extant rules of engagement and code of conduct,"

he said.

Accordingly, the Force Commander, 'Operation Hadarin Daji' and acting General Officer Commanding 8 Division, Nigerian Army, Brigadier-General Aminu Bande, commended the troops for their commitment and reassured the people of Zamfara and other neighbouring states of the determination of the army and other security agencies to secure lives and properties.

He further solicited the support of the public in the ongoing campaign against banditry by providing timely and credible information to 'Operation Hadarin Daji' troops and other security agencies to ensure prompt and decisive action.

He warned all recalcitrant bandits and their cohorts to lay down their arms and process in the state.