

efforts to provide effective

# Troops thwart Boko Haram attacks in Borno

## Say onslaught on Boko Haram, ISWAP terrorists continues, arrest informants

TROOPS of Operation Lafiya Dole have thwarted efforts by the Boko Haram insurgents to attack some soft targets in Borno State.

The troops also continued to decimate the insurgents from different encounters across the North-East, according to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*.

The Nigerian Army Operations media coordinator, Colonel Aminu Iliyasu, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

Iliyasu reiterated the troops' resolve to sustain their efforts until the remnants of the Boko Haram/Islamic States of West Africa Province insurgents were completely wiped out.

He disclosed that the troops of 3 Battalion deployed in Gamboru-Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, on January 18, repelled a Boko Haram attack on the Ngala community.

According to him, the insurgents sneaked into the peaceful community in five gun trucks, motorcycles and a number of foot soldiers through the rear of a humanitarian hub.

"Fortunately for the residents, the vigilant troops

responded swiftly, engaging the criminals with overwhelming superior firepower, thereby forcing them to beat a hasty retreat in complete disarray.

"During the ensuing pursuit and exploitation embarked upon by the troops, one Boko Haram criminal suicide truck driver strapped with a suicide vest was neutralised.

"Items captured during the encounter included one AK-47 rifle, one FN rifle, one motorcycle and one vehicle bearing improvised explosive device with deadly explosive materials," he said.

Iliyasu added that preliminary investigations revealed that vehicles laden with IEDs and suicide bomber were heading for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp in Gamboru-Ngala before the troops foiled the attack.

He added that five humanitarian workers who took refuge in a bunker during the attack were successfully rescued by the troops.

According to him, on January 24, troops of the same 3 Battalion deployed in Ngala bridge repelled another Boko Haram attack on their location.

He disclosed that the insurgents, who came in three gun trucks and a number of foot soldiers late afternoon, were engaged by the troops and inflicted heavy casualty on both their men and equipment.

The spokesman disclosed that two of the three gun trucks belonging to the terrorists were captured at the end of the encounter.

Iliyasu in another statement on Sunday, said some informants of the terrorists had been arrested.

He disclosed that the troops of 159 Battalion deployed in Geidam Local Government Area of Yobe State, in an encounter with the terrorists on January 19, killed two of the criminals.

The spokesman also disclosed that the Joint Tactical Team deployed in Borno and Yobe states apprehended a Boko Haram female recruiter (Zainab Usman) at Modu Sulemri area of Abujan Talakawa ward of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council.

He added that preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect was alleged to be a wife of a high-profile Islamic State West Africa Province logistics supplier.

According to him, the suspect is believed to be in contact with other high-profile Boko Haram/ISWAP commanders and helping them to recruit young fighters.

"Also, on January 2020 troops of 212 Battalion deployed in Auno, Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State in conjunction with elements of the Civilian Joint Task Force arrested one Mallam Ahmed Yakuba a high-profile Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) informant at a location south of Auno village.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect was born in Niger Republic, grew up in Sudan and has been in Nigeria for the past 15 years.

"However, during interrogation the suspect confessed to being a spy for the Islamic State of West Africa Province criminals on a mission to spy on troops' location in Auno and other locations along the Maiduguri - Damaturu road," he said.

He added that troops of 212 Battalion deployed in Gajigana in Magumeri Local Government Area of Borno State also arrested a Boko Haram terrorist, Bukar Sanda, in Gajigana village.

## Attacks cause alarm as suicide bombers hit Gworza