

Commander, vigilante, six bandits killed in gun duel in Plateau

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SIX bandits terrorising Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State have been killed in a gun duel with security operatives.

However, the commander of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Intelligence Response Team (IRT) in the area, Abdulrahman Isah Danzakara, who led the onslaught against the bandits, and a vigilante member, Hassan Mohammed, lost their lives in the encounter.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the incident occurred at

about 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday in Pyem district of Mangu council area when bandits, in large numbers, attacked the area.

It was gathered that following a distress call, operatives of the IGP-IRT, alongside vigilance group members stormed the area and engaged the bandits in a gun duel which lasted for over two hours.

The state police command, in a statement signed by the its spokesperson, ASP Gabriel Ogaba, confirmed the incident.

Ogaba said the command received credible informa-

tion about the activity of a notorious syndicate of gun-runners at Kwoi village in Mangu Local Government Area of the state.

"On receipt of the information, the IGP's Intelligence Response Team (IRT) based in Mangu, police operatives attached to Mangu Division, Operation Safe Haven and local vigilance group members were mobilised to the area.

"On sighting the team, the hoodlums engaged them in a gun duel, but because of the tactical operational capability and superior gunfire of the operatives, six of the hoodlums were neutralised,

while others fled with various degree of bullet wounds."

Ogaba noted that exhibits recovered from the bandits include three AK-47 rifles.

He, however, added that: "Regrettably, one Inspector Abdulrahman Isah, who is the commander of IGP's Intelligence Response Team (IRT) based in Mangu, and one Hassan Mohammed, a local vigilante gallantly paid the supreme price."

He said the command had commenced investigation into the attack, adding that efforts were already being intensified to arrest other fleeing members of the gang.