

Troops kill 70 terrorists, bandits in Borno, Kaduna

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TROOPS of the Joint Task Force in the North-East, Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), have killed 20 Boko Haram/ Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists at Chabbal area in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State.

The Theatre Commander of Operation Hadin Kai, Major-General Christopher Musa, made the disclosure in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Maiduguri, on Tuesday.

Musa said the terrorists, mounted on several gun trucks, coordinated an attack through the agrarian community at about 7:00 p.m. on Monday and started shooting sporadically.

He said the troops, who were on alert about the movement of the terrorists, repelled them, killing 16 in the encounter.

"Four more terrorists wounded during the gun fight were discovered dead this morning (Tuesday), which brings the total number of those killed to 20," he said.

While commending the troops for their gallantry, Musa urged them to sustain the tempo to ensure total elimination of terrorists from the region.

In a related development, over 50 bandits have been killed by combined ground and air assault in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs in the state, Samuel Aru-

wan, in a statement, on Tuesday.

The statement reads: "In an inspiring success for security forces, over 50 bandits have been neutralised during a combined ground and air assault in the Saulawa-Farin Ruwa axis of Birnin Gwari Local Government Area.

"Operational feedback to the Kaduna State government from the command of the Joint Operations, a Nigerian Air Force helicopter gunship provided close air support to ground troops advancing from the Dogon Dawa-Damari-Saulawa axis.

"Following extensive scans, bandits were spotted on five motorcycles, about four kilometers east of Saulawa, waiting to ambush the ground forces. They were engaged vigorously by the helicopter

gunship and were wiped out.

"After this, bandits on about 50 motorcycles were sighted fleeing towards Farin Ruwa, and were struck effectively by the gunship. Fleeing remnants were mopped up by ground forces.

"A second helicopter gunship joined the operation and many more fleeing bandits were neutralised by precise strikes. Assessment revealed that more than 50 bandits were neutralised during the joint operation.

"Governor Nasir El-Rufai expressed his satisfaction at the operational feedback and congratulated the ground troops and gunship crews on the rout. He urged them to sustain the momentum and bring even more bandits to their bitter end."