

does not have the support of any northern group that I know of," he said.

Mohammed added that the North had not endorsed any presidential aspirant, and might not endorse any soon.

He said, "The endorsement by the North would not come the way many people think. People would run their campaigns and some would drop out along the line. The endorsement would come

## Over 40 corpses found in Anambra/Enugu river

EMMANUEL OBE

RESIDENTS of Amansea community, along the border of Anambra and Enugu State woke up Saturday morning discovered over 40 male corpses floating on the Ezzu River.

The bodies, whose source or identities were not known, were suspected to have been dumped in the river by unknown persons on Friday.

There were suspicions that the bodies belonged to people who might have been victims of extra-judicial killings.

They were first noticed by fishermen and sand excavators at the Amansea section of the river as some of the bodies were trapped at the river bank.

The traditional ruler of Amansea, Mr. Kenneth

• **L-R: Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh; Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Adm. Dele Ezeoba and Minister of State for Defence, Mrs. Olusola Obada, at the decoration of newly promoted senior officers in Abuja... on Friday. Photo: NAN**

## Terrorists ambush Mali-bound soldiers, kill two

FIDELIS SORIWEI

TWO soldiers deployed to participate in the West African Force in Mali were on Saturday killed in an ambush by terrorists at Itakpe Junction, along the Okenne-Lokoja Road.

Four others were said to have received injuries from bomb explosions and gun attacks from the assailants.

The bodies of the late soldiers were deposited

of it."

The Anambra State Assistant Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, confirmed the development and said investigations had commenced.

The Enugu State Police Command said that it would work with the Anambra State Police Command to investigate the source of the 40 corpses.

The Enugu State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Musa Daura, who led a team of policemen to the Amansea Bridge from where the corpses could be seen, said the dead bodies remained a mystery to him because he had not heard of any communal clash in Enugu or Anambra where many people were killed.

He said investigations would reveal the source of the corpses.

at the mortuary in Lokoja while the injured soldiers are receiving treatment under heavy security at the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja, Kogi State.

It was learnt that about 150 soldiers were travelling in a convoy from Ibadan, Oyo State when they came under the attack in Kogi.

Motorists were held up along the Okenne-Lokoja Road for over one hour as the road was blocked by men of the Joint Task Force.

The Army Director of Information, Maj. Gen Bola Koleosho, who confirmed the attack, said those who killed the soldiers were members of a terrorist organisation.

Koleosho said the terrorists laid an ambush for them and threw Improved Explosive Devices on the convoy while firing at them simultaneously from the bush.

He said the soldiers left Ibadan for the North on their way to Mali and stopped over in Okenne to pass the night.

He dismissed insider's collaboration on the

ground that it could not be substantiated.

He said, "The troops were coming from Ibadan, I think it took them some time to leave and when they got to Okene, they stopped over to pass the night.

"They were leaving in the morning around when the attackers who were not robbers, because thieves don't use IEDs, waited for them. After they allowed the first escort vehicle to pass, they threw bombs at them while opening fire from the bush.

"Our soldiers at the back returned the fire. If not, the casualty figure would have been higher. One person died instantly and the other died on the way to the hospital. The other four are responding to treatment."

Koleosho said the soldiers decided to block the road to ensure that innocent Nigerians were not attacked by the terrorists. He also said it was to pave way for the soldiers to defuse unexploded IEDs which might have been left behind by the terrorists.

He identified the Ore-Benin road, especially at the Ovia River, near Benin as one of the worst spots where accidents occurred.

## Illegal structures

THE Plateau State Government said on Saturday that it demolished 120 illegal structures last year.

The structures were demolished in the Jos and Bukuru areas.

The General Manager of the Jos Metropolitan Development Board, Mr. Matthias Hata, said this in an interview with the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Jos.

Hata said the performance of the board in 2012 was slightly below that of 2011, because the task force on city renewal had taken over some of its functions.

"We demolished more illegal structures in 2011 than the preceding year because then we were the only body saddled with that task but now we have the task force on city renewal that complements our duties.

"The task force handles illegal temporary structures while we in JMDB take care of illegal permanent structures.

"Notwithstanding this, we are both working towards the actualisation of the greater Jos master plan," he said.