

interim administrator had been ruling the organisation like an emperor without any regard for the doctors in the hospital.

The doctors also stated that the cold war between the association and the management of the hospital had led to the invasion of the ARD Lounge at the hospital by some hoodlums who destroyed their property worth millions of naira.

Should the government fail to caution the administrator, Oke declared that the ARD members would embark on an indefinite strike any moment, recalling that the association had earlier gone on a three-day warning strike on Wednesday last week.

Some of the allegations levelled against Kolajo by the ARD include "unjust relocation letter given to 17 Resident Doctors to exit the FMC against national recognised residency training guidelines."

"Non-recognition of the ARD in the hospital whereas due recognition was given to other unions. Use of foul and abusive language on ARD members against public service rules. Such words include bunch of vagabonds, bunch of nonentities, bunch of idiots, riff-raff among others."

However, Kolajo, when contacted on the telephone for his reaction on the allegations, said he was not in the office but would be available to speak with our correspondent today.

"I am not around let us meet tomorrow (today) in my office."

delivered the 71st Inaugural Lecture of FUTA, on 'Value for Money in Construction Projects: The Quantity Surveyor's Quest', in Akure...on Tuesday. Photo: FUTA

We killed fleeing B'Haram fighters in Gwoza – Army

Fidelis Soriwei, Abuja

THE troops of the Nigerian Army have killed an unspecified number of insurgents during a fierce battle in Gwoza, Borno State.

The Acting Director, Army Public Relations, Col. Sani Usman, said in an electronic mail on Wednesday that the insurgents were fleeing the Sambisa Forest due to aerial bombardment by the fighter pilots of the Nigerian Air Force.

Usman said that the insurgents were fleeing in seven pick-ups with motorcycles mounted with assorted weapons such as rocket propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns when they ran into the encounter with the troops in Gwoza.

Usman, who did not disclose the exact number of the insurgents killed in the operation, said that the troops destroyed the vehicles and weapons and also recovered some items from them.

According to him, the items recovered include a vehicle, one motorcycle and two AK 47 rifles and large quantities of 7.62mm NATO and 12.7mm ammunition.

He stated further that the troops were carrying out aggressive offensives and patrol activities in the area.

He said, "Troops of 26 Task Force Brigade in Gwoza, Borno State, yesterday

evening engaged Boko Haram terrorists fleeing Sambisa Forest following continued aerial bombardment by the Nigerian Air Force.

"The fleeing terrorists in seven pick-ups and some motorcycles mounted with assorted weapons such as rocket propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns were decisively dealt with, killing quite a number of them.

"The troops also destroyed their vehicles, weapons and motorcycles. They also recovered a vehicle, one motorcycle and two AK47 rifles and large quantities of 7.62mm NATO and 12.7mm ammunition.

The troops have intensified their patrols and offensive actions against the terrorists in the area."

Also, the Director of Public Relations and Information of the Nigerian Air Force, Air Commodore Dele Alonge, said in an electronic mail on Wednesday that the Air Force had intensified the strafing of the Sambisa Forest.

He said that the Air Force deployed F-7 fighter aircraft for the bombardment of the forest while the Alpha jet which was deployed in reconnaissance hit some of the moving vehicles of the insurgents.

Alonge added that the ATR-42 and Diamond-142 surveillance aircraft had been involved in surveillance operations over Damasak,

Alafis and Sambisa.

"Meanwhile, the Nigerian Air Force has intensified the aerial bombardments of Sambisa forest. The F-7 fighter aircraft carried out interdiction mission over designated targets and suspected Boko Haram locations.

Drought: Expert warns Nigeria against food scarcity

Kamarudeen Ogundele,
Ado Ekiti

THE Vice-Chairman, South-West Zone of the Agriculture and Allied Employees' Union of Nigeria, Blessing Oladele, has asked the Federal Government to heed the warning given by Nigeria Meteorological Agency that the country may experience food scarcity due to low rainfall in 2015.

Speaking in Ado Ekiti on Wednesday, Oladele said the low rainfall experienced in the South-West and North, known to be agriculture zones, called for serious concern.

He said his union would soon map out strategies on how to partner Governors in the South-West to diversify the economy and improve farming, especially the stomach infrastructure policy of Governor Ayodele Fayose.

Oladele said, "The states in the South-West, particularly Ekiti, have very low rainfall

"Also, the Alpha Jet carried out reconnaissance and attacked some moving vehicles belonging to BHT. While, the Mi -24 and Mi-35 attack helicopters further carried out interdiction mission at some identified targets all in Sambisa Forest," he said.

this year and it has started manifesting. So, our governments must invest in our dams, so that we can have irrigation projects that can respond to this kind of situation.

"My task is to ensure that agriculture is repositioned in the South-West, and we shall achieve that. I am encouraging members of all the unions, including the Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress, to invest in farming and we are receiving warm reception.

"Fayose's stomach infrastructure policy has become a brand and we have to embrace it. The only alternative to our economic survival now is farming, which is food production, and we have to live by that reality."

Oladele urged the Federal Government to "seek alternative means of water supply to boost food production by investing hugely in irrigation projects

None of the applications was granted by the tribunal.

The rest of the applications which the tribunal refused to grant on Wednesday included the one by the INEC, seeking an order striking out the reply of the petitioners to its own response to the petition.

The other motion was by Wike asking the Justice Pindiga-led tribunal to strike out the (witness) statements on oath of the respondents.

across the country.

Meanwhile, the Wurno Local Government in Sokoto State has said it will soon evacuate no fewer than 10,000 people from 20 flood-prone communities in the area.

The Caretaker Chairman of the local government, Alhaji Shehu Chacho, disclosed this to newsmen at Wurno on Wednesday shortly after an emergency meeting convened to discuss the notice on the planned release of excess water from Goronyo dam by the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority.

He listed the affected communities to include Gidan-Kamba, Gidan-Bango one and two, 'Yar-Wurnoni, Gidan-Modu, Lahodu, Tunga, Barayara Zaki, and Arba.

"The people in all these communities will have to be evacuated to primary schools, government quarters and other government buildings."