

become crisis messengers.

# Troops over-run bandit hideouts, kill five suspects

Adelani Adepegba, Abuja

**T**roops have raided and dislodged bandit camps at Gobirawan and Gidan Garba forests, killing five suspected bandits while others fled, abandoning their camps, following the superior fire power of the troops.

The operatives also recovered four motorcycles, two AK47 rifles and one locally fabricated gun.

The Acting Director, Defence Information, Col. Onyema Nwachukwu, disclosed in a statement in Abuja on Friday.

He said the forces of 818 Battalion deployed for clearance operation in conjunction with troops of 'Operation Sharan Daji,' cleared bandit enclaves in Sabon Birni and Dangulbi villages in Sokoto State.

In a similar operation, troops conducted "cordon and search operations" in some suspected hideouts in Zaki Biam, in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

During the sting operation, the troops arrested suspected bandits who revealed their

hideout where troops recovered one locally made rifle, a pistol, three shotgun cartridges and one stolen motorcycle.

The statement said, "In a separate operation also in Benue State, troops of Operation Whirl stroke deployed in Agagbe in the Gwer West Local Government Area, last Thursday, had a fierce encounter with armed herdsmen along Azoom River bank.

"In the fire fight that ensued,

## Nigerian tests positive as Singapore's first monkeypox case

Tobi Aworinde, Abuja

**A** 38-year-old Nigerian has tested positive for monkeypox, the first case of the rare viral disease reported in Singapore.

According to local reports, Singapore's Ministry of Health confirmed its first case of monkeypox on Thursday.

The unnamed patient, who reportedly lodged at Hotel 81 Orchid in Geylang, was said to be in an isolation ward at National Centre for Infectious Diseases in Singapore and is in stable condition.

Through contact tracing,

troops routed the herdsmen and recovered three locally made rifles, one AK 47 magazine, 27 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and one machete. The troops are currently on the trail of the fleeing criminals."

It called on the public to provide credible information on banditry and other criminal activities in their localities for proactive intervention by the security agencies.

the health ministry said it had identified 23 people who had close contact with the patient, and had placed them under quarantine.

It was also stressed that the risk of monkeypox spreading within the community in Singapore was low.

The World Organisation, via its website, describes monkeypox virus as an orthopoxvirus that causes a viral disease with symptoms in humans similar, but milder, to those seen in smallpox patients.

It said, "Smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, whereas human monkeypox is endemic in villages of Central and West Africa."