

... and Ambassador of Finland, Jyrki Katainen, at the presentation of Knight First Class of the Order of Finland... event marking the 103rd Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Finland in Abuja... on Friday. Photo: NHF

# B'Haram attacks Borno town, kills soldier, four civilians

**Adelani Adepegba and  
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**BOKO HARAM** terrorists have killed one soldier and four other persons in an attack on Askira town in the southern part of Borno State.

It was gathered that the attack occurred around 1pm on Saturday and by the time the insurgents were repelled by a fighter jet, a master warrant officer, one vigilante and three other residents of the town had been killed.

A source from the army base in Askira told one of our correspondents that the Boko Haram fighters stormed the town in about 15 gun trucks and opened on the army base.

The source said, "They came into town in about 15 gun trucks and attack our arms store. But it was empty as they had earlier stolen our arms and ammunition. They killed one master warrant officer.

"Soldiers ran for cover because the terrorists outnumbered us, but a fighter jet came and attacked the insurgents. Three of them were

killed and four of their gun trucks were destroyed. Many of the attackers were injured, but they destroyed one army gun truck."

Also, a resident of Askira, who did not want to be named, said after the terrorists were repelled by the fighter jet, "they went into the village shooting indiscriminately, killing four residents, including a vigilante."

The woman added, "We got a warning call from the neighbouring village that some people had sighted the terrorists. Around 1pm, we heard gunshots.

She said they hid in the till it was

dark enough for them to sneak into the town.

The Army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Sagir Musa, had yet to respond to inquiries on the incident. He did not respond to phone calls and a test message seeking his comment on Sunday.

But a statement by the spokesperson, *Operation Lafiya Dole*, Col. Ado Isa, confirmed the attack at Askira but added that the nsurgents also suffered heavy losses from the troops of 28 Task Force Brigade.

It read partly, "On December 12, 2020, Boko Haram terrorists

attempted to attack Askira Uba in Borno State. The terrorists were suspected to have come from Sambisa Forest, mounted on over 15 gun trucks and approached the town from different directions simultaneously. Troops responded and engaged the criminals with superior fire power.

Similarly, a statement on Sunday by the Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. John Enenche, confirmed that the air task force of *Operation Lafiya Dole* eliminated "several Boko Haram insurgents at Njimia on the fringes of the

... in the town... will stakeholders."

Sambisa Forest in Borno State, in airstrikes."

It added that three bandits were killed and four others apprehended in another operation by the troops of *Operation Whirl Stroke*.

Enenche, in the statement said the troops of *Operation Whirl Stroke*, "in the early hours of Saturday, raided identified bandits hideouts at Tomatar Ugba and Kundi villages in Mbacher council ward of Katsina-Ala LGA of Benue State, where the three hoodlums were killed."

## Civil servant paid self N145m PIB media fund – Senate

**Sunday Aborisade, Abuja**

**T**HE Senate Public Account Committee has sustained a query which indicted a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources of awarding N145m meant for the media campaign on the Petroleum Industrial Bill to himself.

The official was expected to award the contract to competent

and technically experienced companies.

The query is contained in the 2015 Auditor General for the Federation report currently being scrutinised by SPAC chaired by Senator Matthew Urhohide.

The query reads, "The total sum of N145m was approved by the Ministerial Tender Board and paid to a management staff for electronic bill board

advertisement, television jingles and newspapers publication.

"It is meant to create campaign awareness for the Petroleum Industry Bill.

"The contract award should have been made to competent and technically experienced companies through open competitive bidding in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

"Invoices and receipts of

payment, which should be from the purported companies and agencies, whose services were engaged in the implementation of the programme, were not tendered for audit."

The Chairman of the Committee at the panel sitting on Thursday asked the representative of Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Godwin Akubo to respond to the allegation.

... CBN Zenith Bank to refund stamp duty three year deductions