

Terrorists kill 15 in Borno, loot foodstuffs

Dogara Bitrus, Maiduguri

FIFTEEN persons have been killed in separate attacks on Sabon Gari and Mandaragirau villages in the Damboa and Biu local government areas in the southern part of Borno State.

Sources confirmed on Sunday that insurgents, who were on

gun trucks and motorcycles, attacked the villages on Saturday and looted foodstuffs and drugs after scaring the villagers with indiscriminate gunshots.

The source stated, "About eight persons were slaughtered

in two separate attacks by Boko Haram terrorists in the Biu Local Government Area of Borno State on Saturday night.

"The Nigerian military troops, in multiple incidents, thwarted attempts by the terrorists group along the Mandaragirau Road in the early hours of Saturday before the fighters managed to gain access in the night."

In a separate attack, terrorists killed seven other persons in Sabon Gari village in the Damboa LGA on Saturday night.

The terrorists were nine in number and they got into the communities on three motorcycles and four gun trucks; after accusing the locals of disclosing information of their plans to plant mines on the road to the military, they burnt down shops, looted foodstuffs and livestock belonging to the residents, a soldier told our correspondent.

Meanwhile troops of the Nigerian Army repelled an attack by ISWAP fighters in the Konduga Local Government Area of the state.

The troops, under the Operation Desert Sanity, who were on a long range patrol of the general area, intercepted the communication of the terrorists on a mission to plant Improvised Explosive Device on the routes and attack a military base.

It was learnt that the troops thwarted the plans after they stormed the scene and tackled the fleeing terrorists.

'Ex-JAMB boss diverted fund to establish printing press'

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

DR Jimoh Olatunde, a prosecution witness in the trial of a former Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Prof. Dibu Ojerinde, has alleged that Ojerinde diverted N341.9 million from the National Examination Council to set up a personal printing press, school and buildings.

He added that N216, 297, 443 was deceitfully withdrawn from NECO's account for payments for 17 fictitious printing contracts, saying the money was used for establishing the printing press.

Olatunde was the first witness to be brought before Justice Mikailu, in a 10-count charge of official corruption and abuse of office brought against Ojerinde by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

The commission's spokesperson, Azuka Ogugua, in a statement on Sunday quoted Olatunde as saying this before a High Court sitting in Niger state.

The witness is said to be a former

the Head of Treasury as of the time the alleged fraud took place.

She added, "A total of 18 documents including correspondence addressed to the witness as 'Client Representative' by the various contractors used for the projects as well as Bills of Quantities were tendered and admitted in evidence.

"The witness also tendered some documents to show that a number of shares in some blue chip companies acquired for the former JAMB boss were transferred to 'Madiba's Trust', an entity created to consolidate.

"While being cross examined by the defendant's counsel, Ibrahim Ishyaku, SAN, the ICPC witness also tendered a list of 17 companies which he said were used to siphon funds from NECO to acquire some of the companies and assets for the benefit of the defendant."

The matter was adjourned to March 7 and 8, 2022 for continuation of hearing following complaint of back ache by the witness and further cross examination by the defence counsel.