

Soldiers kill 14 Boko Haram members, rescue 30 in Borno

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Nigerian Army yesterday said its troops had killed 14 Boko Haram members in clearance operations in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

In a press statement, Brig-Gen. Sani Kukasheka, Director Army Public Relations, said the troops also rescued 30 persons, captured one insurgent and recovered various caliber of ammunition.

He said the troops had also cleared insurgents in their hideouts at Abusuriwa, Newchinda, Bonzon, Usmanari, Goyayeri, Shitimari, Gashimari and Awaram villages, in Bama Local Government Area.

Kukasheka explained that eight insurgents were killed while many of them escaped in the affected villages, adding that three males; 12 females and 15 children were rescued from the insurgents.

The army spokesman also disclosed that the troops also ambushed and killed six insurgents at Kumshe and Darel-Jamel villages.

According to him, the arrested insurgent was handed over to the appropriate authorities for intonation.

"Troops of 202 Battalion of 21 Brigade Nigerian Army, in conjunction with elements of Mobile Strike Teams (MSTs) on Operations LAFIYA DOLE, in furtherance of clearance and blockade Operation DEEP PUNCH II, on Saturday November 25, 2017, cleared Boko Haram terrorists' enclaves in Abusuriwa, Newchinda, Bonzon, Usmanari, Goyayeri, Shitimari, Gashimari and Awaram among other villages in Bama Local Government Area of Borno.

"The troops whose continuous resolve in routing the remnants of the suspected terrorists hibernating within the Brigade's area of responsibility ensured that their superior fire power made the terrorists to flee in disarray, leading to the capture of one suspected terrorist, while eight Boko Haram terrorists were neutralised.

"The gallant troops recovered four AK-47 rifles, three magazines, seven dane guns and machetes, among other items."

N450m fraud: EFCC closes case on Belgore, ex-minister

By **Lukman Olabiyl**

AFTER calling two witnesses to testified in the on-going trial of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mr. Dele Belgore, over alleged money laundering, the prosecution has closed its case against the accused.

Belgore is standing trial alongside a former Minister of National Planning, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman. They were first arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

(EFCC) on five counts on February 8, 2017 before the Federal High Court, Lagos. The EFCC, however, amended the charges on two occasions, leading to the re-arraignment of the defendant.

The latest amendment to the charges led to the re-arraignment of the defendants on Tuesday, shortly after which the commission announced the closure of its case.

The prosecuting counsel for EFCC, Mr. Rotimi Oyedepo, told the court that the anti-graft agency had decided to rest its case af-

ter calling two witnesses and tendering a number of exhibits.

Oyedepo said the anti-graft agency believed it had already established its allegations against Belgore and his co-defendant.

In response to the closure of the EFCC's case, the defence counsel, Mr. Ebun Shofunde (SAN) and Olatunji Ayanlaja (SAN), hinted that they would be filing no-case submissions on behalf of their clients.

The trial judge, Justice Rilwan Aikawa, adjourned till January 16, 2018 to hear the defendants.

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