

Soldiers kill 3 bandits, foil kidnap in Zamfara

THE Nigerian Army said soldiers on anti-banditry operations in Zamfara State have busted an attempt by a kidnap gang to abduct some villagers in Kabasa Magami Local Government.

Director, Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Mohammed Yerima, said in a statement: "Following a credible tip-off, Troops of Sector 3, Operation HADARIN DAJI, on Tuesday, stormed Kabasa in Magami LG, where bandits were attacking locals.

"The timely arrival of troops forestalled the a deadly kidnap and plundering operations by bandits, which was underway. They were swiftly engaged by troops who successfully neutralized scores while others escaped into the forest with bullet wounds.

"Unfortunately, one soldier paid the supreme sacrifice and three others who sustained various degrees of injuries during the encounter are currently receiving medical treatment. Troops have dominat-

ed the general area with aggressive patrols and have continued further exploitation and pursuit of the bandits into the forest.

"Similarly, on the same day, troops of Operation HADARIN DAJI responded to a distress call that bandits were attacking Gidan Goga village in Maradun LGA. Troops swiftly mobilized to the area and engaged the bandits with superior firepower, killing three while others fled in disarray, some with gunshot wounds.

"In another development, troops conducting fighting patrol rescued two female kidnap victims in Birnin Gwari area. Preliminary investigation revealed that the victims were kidnapped 22 days ago from Kuyallo in Birnin Gwari LGA of Kaduna State. The victims have been given medical treatment while waiting to be reunited with their families.

"The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) charged the troops to keep up the momentum until the entire North-West zone is rid of bandits, cattle rustlers, kidnappers and sundry violent crimes.

"He also thanked the villagers for the credible and timely information they provided the troops, which made their operations successful.

"The COAS said the patriotic action of the villagers who saw something and reported to the troops should be emulated by others so that the activities of bandits would be nipped in the bud."

GOC promises to sustain peace, harmony in Plateau

THE Nigerian Army has assured the government and people of Plateau State that it will work with the various security agencies to ensure that peace returns to the state, hitherto a haven for tourists.

The new acting General Officer Commanding (GOC), 3 Armoured Division, Jos, Brigadier-General Bello Abdullahi Mohammed, gave the assurance when he visited Governor Simon Lalong.

He said: "I want to assure you and the people of Plateau State that we shall continue to operate professionally for sustainable peace and security in the state.

"We will work with other security agencies and loyal citizens to ensure that the peaceful environment in the state is improved upon.

"We cannot do it alone. We will work with all to get the best."

Lalong responded that: "Peace and security is our cardinal priority in Plateau State and the security forces, particularly officers and men of the 3rd Armoured Division, have been of great assistance. As a government, we will give you all the needed support to succeed even more than your predecessors."