

# News around the



Commissioner of Police, Oyo State, Adebowale Williams (middle), briefing newsmen ahead of tomorrow's governorship election after a security meeting at Police Headquarters, Eleyele, Ibadan, yesterday.

## Army Major, 3 soldiers, 4 vigilantes killed in Niger

From **John Adams**, Minna

A Nigerian Army Major and three soldiers were killed by gunmen in an ambush attack at the Igu village, along Sarkin Pawa-Kaduna road in Munya Local Government Area, Niger State, on Wednesday evening.

Also killed by the gunmen during the encounter were four members of the local vigilantes who were in a joint patrol with the soldiers.

The killing of the soldiers came barely a few hours after they (soldiers) successfully neutralised scores of the gunmen during a gun battle, leaving one soldier and two members of the local vigilantes killed.

A source close to the community said the soldiers were said to have run into the ambush by the gunmen, at the Igu village, about 10 kilometres from Sarkin Pawa headquarters of Munya local government.

It was gathered that the soldiers were on their way back to the scene of the earlier gun battle to recover the bodies of some local vigilantes that were missing, unknowing to them that the gunmen were still in the bush trying to bury their dead and evacuate the injured.

It was further gathered that the gunmen who were over 70 in number, overpowered the few soldiers who were returning from a journey. Only one soldier managed to escape from the attack. Our source further disclosed that a pilot of a fighter jet, who came to provide air support for the ground troops, was said to have told the late Major, whom he was communicating with on the ground, that he could not see the gunmen who were said to be moving in their large num-

ber with about 150 cattle and over 60 kidnapped victims, but that he could only see the soldiers.

Our source said it was at this point that the Major was said

to have told him (pilot) to go back to avoid any casualty on their side, leaving the soldiers to face the over 70 gunmen. In January 2020, an army captain and four soldiers were killed in

a similar ambush attack at the same Igu village, along Sarkin Pawa-Kaduna road, when they had to answer a distress call from the people. Meanwhile, all attempts to

get the state Commissioner for Internal Security and Humanitarian Affairs, was not successful as his mobile phone could not go through at the time of filing this report.

## Polls: IGP orders movement restriction on election day

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

**THE** Inspector General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba, has ordered the restriction of vehicular movement during the governorship and state house of assembly elections tomorrow.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Olumiyiwa Adejobi, who made the disclosure, said the restriction would take effect from 12 midnight today to 6pm tomorrow.

Adejobi, in a statement he issued in Abuja, yesterday, said: "Sequel to the forthcoming gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections scheduled to hold on March 18, 2023, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Usman Alkali Baba (CFR), has ordered the restriction of all forms of vehicular movement on roads, waterways, and other forms of transportation, from 12am to 6pm on election day in all states where elections will be conducted, with the exception of those on essential services, such as INEC officials, electoral observers, accredited media and observers, ambulances responding to medical emergencies and firefighters, etc. This directive excludes the Federal Capital Territory as no election is being conducted, therein.

Similarly, the IGP reiterates the ban on all security aides to VIPs and escorts from accompanying their

principals and politicians to polling booths and collation centres during the election. State-established and owned security outfits/organisations, quasi-security units, and privately-owned guard and security outfits are also barred from participating in election security management.

The IDP, therefore, urges all citizens to be law abiding

during and after the elections, even as he assures that all necessary security arrangements have been emplaced, to ensure they exercise their franchise unhindered. He also urges the general public to contact the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters via 08033440189 (DIG Operations), 08033027731 (AIG FEDOPS), and 08034040439 (CP Elections), the 'NPF Res-

cue Me App' on Android and ios, and via the NPF Rescue Me Emergency Toll-free line on 08031230631, to request emergency security response. Similarly, other election situation room numbers which have been shared on Nigeria Police social media platforms will be repeatedly released by concerned State Police Commands for necessary emergency contact.

## DSS arrests 2 over call for violence in Kano

From **Desmond Mgboh**, Kano

**THE** Department of State Services (DSS) has arrested the duo of Sharu Abubakar Tabala and Isma'il Iliyasu Mangu for allegedly inciting violence in Kano State.

A statement signed, yesterday, by the spokesperson of the Service, Peter Afunanya, accused the suspects of separately recording messages, which they shared through various social media channels.

"In those potentially harmful messages, they specifically championed certain political interests and directly called on their supporters to violently attack those opposed to them, including security personnel, during Saturday's governorship and House of Assembly elec-

tion in the state," he stated.

He added: "As a result of this development, a particular political party in Kano has threatened to organise protest marches in the metropolis as well as storm offices of some of the security agencies on 16th March, 2023 in solidarity for the suspects.

"While the Service alerts the public of this planned illegal action, it calls on the concerned party to shelve it forthwith or be ready to face the consequences."

The DSS assured that it will not idly watch misguided persons or groups undermine the peace and security of the state.

"The leadership of the said party should rein in its members and urge them to desist from conducts capable of causing a breakdown of law and order in Kano and its environs before,

during and after the scheduled election," he stated.

The Service reiterated the call for political players to abide by the letters of the electoral act and guidelines.

"All and sundry are advised to positively contribute to the sustenance of peace and democracy in Nigeria," he stated.

The New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in the state had accused the Service of bias against them, saying it was extending invitations to its supporters with a view to arresting and detaining them.

At a press conference addressed by Dr Abdullahi Baffa Bichi on behalf of the party, they pledged to embark on a protest march to press for the redeployment of the Director of the Service in the state.