

Military Lays Ambush for Boko Haram Insurgents, Foils Planned Attack on Goniri

● *Cordon and search for arms continues*

Senator Iroegbu and Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja

The Nigerian security forces have, through successful intelligence gathering, scuttled the move by the members the outlawed Boko Haram sect to penetrate and attack Goniri community in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The insurgents' mission was aborted through an ambushed by troops on patrol who were already alerted of the terrorists intention.

This was disclosed in a statement signed yesterday by the Director of Defence Information (DDI), Maj-Gen. Chris Olukolade.

Olukolade said the troops were still in pursuit of the fleeing terrorists after the encounter which resulted in some casualties on both parties.

He revealed that rockets and machine guns were freely used

by the terrorists who eventually lost over eight of their fighters with several others wounded.

According to him, arms were also recovered from the terrorists while others fled, adding that the troops lost a soldier while an officer was seriously wounded in the encounter.

"Goniri is not far from Buni Yadi where the terrorists killed school children recently," he noted.

Olukolade also said the troops operating around Gamboru, Ngala and Dikwa Local Government Areas towards the borders with Chad and Cameroun were throughout the weekend busy recovering weapons hidden by terrorists who were dislodged from the area.

"Assisted by captured terrorists, the troops were led to the sites where arms have been hidden in farms

and cemeteries. The cordon and search of the entire area is still in progress", he added.

In a related development, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) yesterday unveiled the newly procured surveillance vehicles for its renewed effort to combat vandalism and oil theft in the country.

The Commandant-General, NSCDC, Dr. Ade Abolurin, while unveiling the equipment yesterday in Abuja, said they were aimed at reducing the predicaments of Nigerians and to reduce, to the barest minimum, tendency of other crimes in the area of vandalism, insurgency as well as infiltration into all the sectors of the economy.

Abolurin also said the equipment was to ensure that NSCDC carries out its mandate of protecting the critical infrastructure and national asset of government in the oil and gas, telecommunication, and power sectors among others.

He said: "In government's effort to improve the economic situation of the country, and to fight against vandalism as well as all forms of insecurity in our land particularly in relation to the mandate of NSCDC in protecting the critical infrastructure and national asset of government these vehicles have been procured.

"We believe that these equipment will be put to task; the officers will be put to task too and we know that the

ultimate aim is to reduce the predicaments of Nigerians to the barest minimum tendency of other crimes in the area of vandalism, insurgency as well as infiltration into all the sectors of the economy."

The civil defence boss assured Nigerians that the little they had received from government while expecting others to be released, would be put to use effectively towards reduction of crime in these areas particularly under its mandate.

Abolurin noted that "while government has been trying to reduce crimes, especially in the areas of economic sabotage, it will not be fair if the citizenry continue to destroy the infrastructure."

The equipment unveiled included 10 Hilux vans mounted with cameras and two towing vehicles, as he stressed that other vehicles were still being expected.

The commandant-general explained that the towing vehicles would be used to tow vehicles of vandals, adding that some of them do jump into the sea to escape arrest and leave their vehicle sbehind, that instead of burning it, it would be used as exhibit.

He equally stated that some officers had been previously sent out of the country to Indonesia, Israel, Czech Republic for training on how to man the equipment, while certificate were also presented to those officers.

