

# Top Boko Haram commander killed in Borno

Emmanuel Onani

ABUJA

Troops of Operation Lafiya Dole have killed a suspected top commander of Boko Haram, Abu Usamah, during a fierce encounter with the terrorists in Damboa, Borno State.

Troops on special clearance operation (Operation Ayiso Tamonuma) conducted on March 22, had killed at least 100 of the enemies of state at Gorgi in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State.

The military had said that, apart from those killed, scores others were wounded during the encounter, with equipment recovered.

The Acting Director of Media Operations, Brig-Gen. Benard Onyeuko, said in a statement that it was gratifying to note that communication intercepted confirmed by accurate intelligence revealed that a top Boko Haram Commander, Abu Usamah, was among those Boko Haram insurgents killed

during that encounter.

Onyeuko said Usamah had earlier sustained fatal gunshot wounds in the fire fight that ensued during the encounter before his foot soldiers hurriedly evacuated him and withdrew.

He added: "Nevertheless, Abu Usamah died in the process. His death has no doubt created a consequential vacuum in the Boko Haram leadership particularly as the gallant troops remain resilient and continue to rout the criminal elements from their last enclaves in the North-East."

In another development, Onyeuko disclosed that troops of 159 Task Force Bat-

talion, Operation Lafiya Dole, deployed in Forward Operating Base Kanama, Yunusari Local Government Area of Yobe State, neutralised scores of the Boko Haram Terrorists/Islamic State's West Africa Province insurgents who attempted to infiltrate their location on March 27, 2020.

The terrorists, he added, were severely decimated by ground forces, supported by the Air component of Operation Lafiya Dole.

He said: "They withdrew in disarray under superior fire power and were subsequently crushed by own troops.

"Furthermore, during the encounter several terrorists

were neutralised while one Gun Truck and various arms and ammunition were captured by the troops.

"These include one DSHK Gun, two AK47 rifles, two AK47 rifle magazines, one Rocket Propelled Grenade bomb, 273 rounds of Anti-Aircraft Gun ammunition, 101 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition, 15 jerricans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and a Boko Haram terrorists' flag.

"The Military High Command has congratulated the gallant troops for their resilience, courage and dedication to the noble cause of defending our fatherland against the criminal elements.

"They were equally enjoined to continue to be steadfast and relentless against the enemies of our nation."



Boko Haram members

## Kaduna: Police arrest 165

Baba Negedu

KADUNA

Police yesterday said they had arrested 165 people and impounded 205 vehicles and tricycles in different parts of Kaduna State.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Muhammad Jalige, said in a