

Police Headquarters

## By Yemi Akinsuyi

The Director General of the State Security Services (SSS), Mr. Ekpeyong Ita, has vowed that despite the gruesome killings of 10 of his operatives by Ombatse cult group in Eggon, Nasarawa State, the service will not be the first to fly the white flag.

About 100 security operatives including 10 SSS were on May 7, killed in Nasarawa State when they allegedly went to effect the arrest of the leader of a notorious Ombatse cult group accused of forcefully initiating Muslims and Christians into their group.

Ita, who said this at a candle light service held in honour of the 10 SSS operatives killed during the attack, insisted that the service would not deter in fighting any form of crime and criminality in the country.

"We will remain resolute, determined and focused. Therefore for the sake of our colleagues and the survival of our country, we will never raise the white flag. Those who do not wish this country well will be made to face the music. To those who could only kill the body, note that you have made your community an ignoble sepulcher of innocent law enforcement agents and that even though our spirits are cast in iron yet we will not deter in fighting on," he said.

The SSS DG recalled the incident leading to the onslaught, as he noted that the security operatives embarked on the deadly mission to avert what could become the emergence of another case of Boko Haram or Maitasine.

"I want to recall that exactly 17 days today some 10 dedicated and highly committed officers and men of this family were sent in an operation. The operation was aimed at fulfilling our sacred mandate, that is, the protection and preservation of our nation which is our collective patrimony. They went to

keep the peace and douse the tension generated in the state by the activities of an unscrupulous group of primitive people.

"This group had on April 20 at Arugba Isa village in Lafia North, forcefully initiated some members of Izala Muslims. Also, on April 28 some Christians in Gidan Gambo village were forcefully initiated. Similarly on May 2, at Kayarda village an attempt by some of the group members to initiate some Muslims almost led to a violent confrontation. It was in an attempt to arrest the situation from further deteriorating that law enforcement agents were sent.

From experience, this was the same manner Maitasine and the Boko Haram terrorists started,", he stated.

In an emotion laden voice, the SSS boss lamented the death of the operatives and promised that they will never die in vain. "We have waited in vain for your return and accordingly, we have come

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