

Troops kill 5 bandits in Benue

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—FIVE bandits were yesterday killed in a gun battle between troops of the 72 Special Forces Battalion, Makurdi and suspected armed militia in Katsina/Ala local Government Area of Benue State.

The gun duel also led to recovery of one General Purpose Machine Gun, two AK-47 rifles, 198 rounds of 7.62mm NATO ammunition, 16 rounds of 7.63mm special ammunition, two vehicles and seven motorcycles.

A statement by acting Director, Army Public Relations, Colonel Sagir Musa, in Makurdi, said the troops were deployed for internal security operation in Katsina/Ala to quell the ongoing bloody conflict between Ikurav and Shitile.

According to him, "the efforts of the troops were sequel to information received about the planned attack on Katsina-Ala town by Shitile armed bandits. Hence, the 72 Special Forces Battalion troops laid an ambush along the suspected route where they intercepted the armed fighters/attackers.