

Army troops dislodge ISWAP terrorists, kill top commander, others in Borno, Yobe

By Kingsley Omonobi

DAMATURU—THE Nigerian Army troops of Operation Lafiya Dole in conjunction with the Air Task Force have inflicted a heavy blow on Islamic State's West Africa Province, ISWAP terrorists in a failed attempt to infiltrate Damaturu, the Yobe State Capital.

The Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Col. Aminu Iliyasu, in a statement in Abuja, said the troops

engaged the terrorists along Gashua Road in the outskirts of Damaturu in a fire fight with the support of Air Task Force leading to heavy casualty on the side of the terrorists in both men and equipment.

According to him, it was confirmed that a top ISWAP Commander, Abu Mughtar, believed to have coordinated several attacks along the fringes of Lake Chad was neutralised along with over 30 other insurgents in the attack.

According to the statement, "Regrettably, 2

gallant soldiers were wounded in action during the encounter. The wounded personnel are currently receiving treatment and responding positively at a military medical facility.

"In the aftermath of the encounter, troops captured one Gun Truck and destroyed two others. Troops equally captured 561 Rounds of 12.7mm ammunition, 1420 Rounds of 7.62mm Special ammunition, 1850 Rounds of 7.62mmX51 ammunition and 2 Rocket Propelled

Gun bombs.

"Other items captured by the gallant troops include, one Hand Held Communication Radio, 27 sachets of Meal Ready to Eat wraps and 350 liters of Premium Motor Spirit (Petrol)."

Iliyasu also informed that the troops of 331 Artillery Regiment carried out artillery bombardment on Boko Haram insurgents with heavy casualty on Dec. 23 around Mandara Girau in Biu Local Government Area.

He noted that troops of 121 Task Force Battalion deployed at Pulka in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno also thwarted another Boko Haram attack in their location with devastating consequence on the marauding criminals.

According to him, after the encounter, four Boko Haram criminals including one suicide bomber were neutralised while others are believed to have escaped with varying degrees of gunshot wounds.

"In a related development, troops of Sector one deployed at Gwoza conducted a robust clearance operation deep into Sambisa Forest on Dec. 23.

"The rugged troops cleared Banari, Keluri, Usmanti and Jowlori Villages all of Gwoza LGA and captured two of the criminal Boko Haram insurgents alive, rescued nine women and nine children.

"The rescued children were immediately administered with Polio vaccine before being evacuated to safety.

Sokoto Assembly passes N202.4bn 2020 Appropriation Bill

SOKOTO—THE Sokoto State House of Assembly has passed the state's 2020 Appropriation Bill of N202.4 billion.

This followed the adoption of the report of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation

at plenary.

Presenting the report, Chairman of the Committee, Alhaji Malami Muhammad (PDP-Sokoto South II), explained that the committee did not add or subtract from the figures presented by Governor

Aminu Tambuwal.

"However, based on genuine request by Sub-Committees, the committee moved resources inwards to accommodate some important demands and interest of our people," he said.

Muhammad noted that the committee recommended that the state government should recruit more staff for the office of the state Auditor-General.

"This is to enable them have wider coverage of the International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) scheme.

"That Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning should as much as possible rectify any error made with regards to project titles, cost and description in some Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs)," he said.

Alhaji Bello Ambarura, Majority Leader, thereafter moved the motion for the adoption of the report and it was unanimously adopted by the lawmakers.

Jigawa commences payment of minimum wage

By Aliyu Dangida

DUTSE—JIGAWA State Government has commenced payment of the new national minimum wage to civil servants.

The commencement of the payment was announced in a statement by the state Head of the Civil Service, Alhaji Hussaini Ali Kila.

He said already some workers had started receiving bank alerts of their December Salary, noting that the remaining workers would continue to

receive their alert before the end of the year.

It was two weeks ago, that Governor Badaru Abubakar signed the new minimum wage into law and pledged for the full implementation for the state to join others who have complied with the new minimum wage act.

The Head of service called on workers in the state to reciprocate the gesture by dedicating themselves to duty, pointing that the "state government is committed towards improving their welfare and enhanced capacity building and manpower development."

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