

productive, the statement certainly will bring about

Troops clear Boko Haram enclaves, rescue five in Borno

The Nigerian Army yesterday said troops have cleared Boko Haram terrorists' hideouts, rescuing five captives including an octogenarian, three women and a minor across Borno State in the past few days. The Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Col. Aminu Iliyasu, disclosed this in a statement in Abuja on Saturday that troops of 121 Battalion deployed at Pulka in Gwoza Local Government Area, captured and destroyed the terrorists' hideout at Zeledva Hills along Pulka - Bokko - Ngoshe Road on Wednesday. More elements of the Boko Haram/ISWAP insurgents, bandits and other criminal elements have either been neutralised or arrested at their hideouts across the country and more of their abductees have been freed. "On 7 Jan for instance, troops of 121 Battalion deployed at Pulka in Gwoza LGA of Borno State while on 'Operation RUFE KOFI' cleared and destroyed Boko Haram criminals' hideouts at Zeledva Hills along Pulka - Bokko - Ngoshe Road in

the same LGA." He added that the combined troops of 192 Battalion deployed at Gwoza, Theatre Strike Force (TSF) and Cameroonian Defence Force in conjunction with Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters ascended the Ungwan-Gara-Kwatara mountain enclave of the terrorists.

According to him, on sighting the troops, the criminals fled the enclave in disarray, while the resilient troops went ahead to clear the hideout of any presence and activities of the insurgents.

"In the process, the troops rescue 5 abandoned captives including one septuagenarian, three women and one minor.

"In a similar operation conducted by troops of 21 Special Armoured Brigade deployed at Bama on Jan. 9, recovered a mutilated body parts of a neutralized Boko Haram criminal from an earlier encounter and one AK 47 Rifle magazine.

"On Jan. 8, troops of 112 Task Force Battalion deployed in Mafa Local Government Area, decimated some Boko Haram criminals and captured one AK 47 Rifle and a bandolier of 7.62mm NATO ammunition.

"Other items recovered are four AK 47 magazines loaded with 120 rounds of 7.62mm

doggedness and courage to protect their people and their region against herdsmen.

Special ammunition while others were believed to have escaped with various degrees of gunshot wounds.

"In another daring encounter with some Boko Haram criminals on Jan. 6, troops of 22 Brigade (Main) deployed in Dikwa area of the state rescued one Mr Ibrahim who was earlier abducted by the criminals," he said.

Iliyasu further disclosed that the troops of 17 Brigade deployed at Tashan Bawa, Sabuwa Local Government Area of Katsina State engaged bandits with superior fire power and eliminated many of the bandits.

He added that other bandits fled into the nearby Madaci - Birnin Gwari Forest with various degrees of gunshot wounds.

According to him, troops thereafter intensified the conduct of robust patrols in the general area to obviate further respite for the bandits.

Furthermore, on Jan. 10, troops of 8 Division acting on reliable information intercepted a group of bandits moving with rustled cattle towards Miyanchi in Maru Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

"Troops made contact with the bandits at Kadauri and Miyanchi Bridge of the same LGA leading to killing of three bandits.

"Additionally, 2 AK 47 Rifles, 7 AK 47 Rifle magazines loaded with 210 rounds of 7.62mm Special

candidate

By Davies Theamnachor

A Court of Appeal sitting in Port Harcourt has voided the ruling of a lower court which annulled the candidature of David Lyon as the governorship candidate of All Progressives Congress, APC, in Bayelsa State.

The court, in three separate judgements delivered by Justice Isaiah Olufemi, Justice Cordelia Jumbo-Ofo and Justice Abubakar Lamido, upheld the nomination and candidature of Lyon.

Delivering its unanimous judgment in the first appeal on FHC/YNG/CS/100/2019, brought by Lyon, Olufemi held that the lower court erred to have entertained the matter, knowing that matters of such nature were status barred.

He noted that the position of the law was that in election matters, time is of essence, saying the process of approaching the court for redress did not start early.

Olufemi noted that the aggrieved party, Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri, should have approached the court within 14 days after the actions that affected him were carried out, adding that the filing of the matter on the 15th day after the event made it invalid.

Portos Iabo leaders for opposing BSS