

Gunmen kill 2 mobile policemen in Taraba

●2 soldiers missing, some injured in Benue bandits' ambush

By Femi Bolaji & Peter Duru

TWO mobile police officers were shot dead by some gunmen, Monday night, while on duty at a checkpoint in Dogongawa, along KatsinaAla-Takum road in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State.

Same Monday night, two soldiers attached to the joint military operation were feared missing in an ambush by suspected bandits at Bonta community in Konshisha Local Government Area of Benue state.

Confirming the death of the two mobile policemen, chairman of Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State, Shiban Tikari, said: "The gunmen came on motorcycles, through the back of the Central Primary School, Dogongawa.

"They opened fire on the two policemen, killed them and took away their rifles."

At press time, spokesman of the state police command, DSP David Misal, was yet to confirm the report.

2 soldiers missing, some injured in Benue bandits' ambush

Meanwhile, Chairman, Konshisha Local Government Area, Benue State, Mr James Jirgba, yesterday, confirmed the attack on soldiers attached to the joint military operation codenamed *Operation Whirl Stroke*, OPWS, Monday evening.

He said the incident happened at a border community between Konshisha and Oju local government areas.

It was gathered that two soldiers attached to the joint military operation were feared missing after they were ambushed by suspected bandits at Bonta community, Konshisha Local Government Area, LGA of Benue State.

Some of the soldiers also sustained injuries in the attack.

Vanguard gathered that the missing soldiers were part of the team on routine patrol in Konshisha and neighbouring Oju LGAs when they ran into the ambush by the bandits, who are known as *Bonta boys*.

According to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, "the *Bonta boys* attacked the soldiers because they entered the community and removed the illegal roadblocks they mounted within the community.

"So when they saw the troops undertaking their routine patrols of

the area on Monday at about 5 pm, they opened fire on them.

"The patrol team engaged the bandits in a gunfight and also quickly called for reinforcement but before their arrival, the gunmen fled with both sides sustaining

injuries.

"The OPWS troops, who spent the night in the community, are currently on the trail of the bandits and are combing the entire community in search of the missing soldiers and the bandits.

"We believe the attack was carried out probably to intimidate the troops, who are doing a great job in the state."

The OPWS Force Commander, Major-General Adeyemi Yekini, could not be reached on the phone and text messages sent to his phone were not responded to.

Wanted drug baron arrested in Nasarawa

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—IT was indeed a bleak Easter for a wanted drug baron in Nasarawa State, Sami Ashoko, as he did not only spend the festive season in custody, his warehouse filled with skunk was also raided and 100 bags of the illicit drug weighing 1,095.3kg seized.

The same fate also befell members of another cartel, who were arrested in Iyamho, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State and their illicit consignment, weighing 1,330kg meant for Bauchi State, equally seized.

Both syndicates were busted on Friday while trying to distribute their illegal substances for the Easter sales.

In Nasarawa, Ashoko, 39, who hails from Ibillo in Akoko Edo area of Edo State, was arrested in Shinge, Lafia based on intelligence.

A team of operatives had stormed his warehouse in Lafia and recovered 100 bags of cannabis weighing about 1.1 tons or 1095.3 kg.

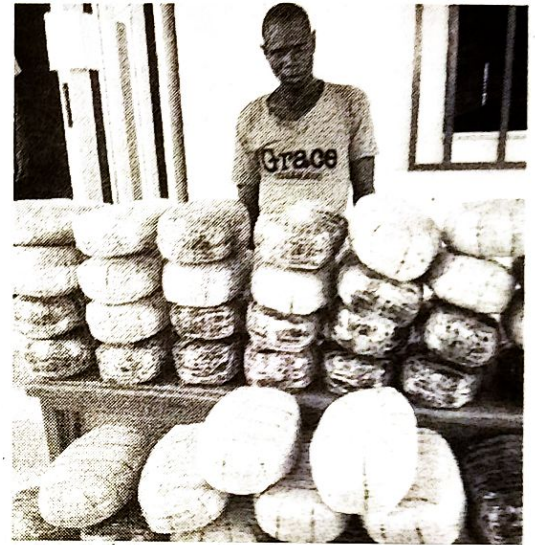
According to the Commander, Nasarawa State Command of the NDLEA, Justice Arinze, "Sami Ashoko

is the most wanted drug baron who has been on our watch list in Nasarawa state.

This seizure has beaten the previous record of 45 bags weighing about a half ton recovered in January 2021 as the highest singular seizure of cannabis since the inception of the command in 1999.

As NDLEA intercepts 1,330kg skunk in Edo

In a related development, two members of another drug cartel, Adamu Badamasi and Adamu Abba were also arrested the same day in Edo State while trying to move 950 compressed blocks of cannabis weighing 1,330kg, procured from Uzebba, Owan West Local Government Area of the state to Bauchi State for



Sami Ashoko with the intercepted drugs.

Easter sales.

Commander of the Edo State Command of the anti-drug law enforcement agency, Buba Wakawa, disclosed that the arrest and seizure disrupted the Easter sales plan of the cartel, which tried to escape arrest through hinterland routes in their white colour Peugeot J5 Space bus with number plate, Lagos JJJ 722 XC.

Bandits kill 8, injure 4 in 2 Kaduna communities

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

EIGHT persons were reportedly killed in separate incidents in Kajuru and Kachia local government areas of Kaduna State.

Kaduna State Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said in one of the incidents reported by security agencies that bandits barricaded the Kaduna-Kachia road around

Kadanye village in Kajuru LGA, and opened fire on a bus as well as a truck carrying firewood.

Five people, Alfred Makinde, the driver of the bus; Abdulrahman Dela; Dauda Adamu; Umar Dauda; and Abdurashheed Musa, were killed.

He added that three persons injured in the attack are currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

Aruwan added that bandits also barricaded the Kaduna-

Kachia road at the Doka axis of Kajuru LGA and shot at a truck, killing the driver.

"Furthermore, in Kachia LGA, another set of bandits invaded a herders settlement in Inlowo village and killed one Ibrahim Haruna, before carting away 180 cows.

"At Akilbu village in Kachia LGA, armed bandits shot at a vehicle, injuring two persons, Mansur Ibrahim and Muhammadu Aminu. Mansur Ibrahim later died in hospital while Muhammadu Aminu continues to receive treatment."