

Troops eliminate 7 IPOB/ESN members, arrest 22 criminals, recover arms

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—Troops prosecuting the offensive against the outlawed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra/Eastern Security Network, IPOB/ESN, in the South-East of the country have killed seven IPOB members and arrested six others during operations conducted in Imo, Anambra, Abia and Enugu states.

In an encounter at a checkpoint mounted by IPOB/ESN along Owerri-Orlu road in Mbatoli Local Government Area of Imo State, troops neutralised five of the criminals and recovered two AK-47 rifles, 20 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, three dynamites, four AK-47 magazines, two FN magazine and two vehicles, among other items.

Confirming the encounter, yesterday, Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Danmadami, said troops in conjunction with other

security agencies also raided suspected IPOB camps at Obowo and Aboh Mbiase Local Government Areas in Imo State, adding, however, that the criminals fled on sighting the troops.

"Troops exploited the general area and recovered three locally made RPG bombs, one locally made RPG tube, two AK-47 rifles, two pump action guns, 30 rounds of 7.62mm special, 58 rounds of MK2 ammo, nine canisters, two AK-47 magazines, two pump actions cartridges, one locally made pistol, one Dane gun, three pairs of combat boots, 11 vests, two vehicles and seven mobile phones among other items.

"On the same day, troops acted on credible information on the convergence of IPOB/ESN criminals and raided a hotel along Okigwe-Umahia road in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State and arrested 16 suspected criminals.

In the battle against bandits/terrorists, Danmadami said troops apprehended a terrorist collaborator at Madachi in Dandume Local Government Area of Katsina State at a checkpoint with N1,590,000.

He said: "On interrogation, the suspect revealed that he was sent by one Nasiru, a notorious terrorist on the wanted list of security agents, responsible for the killing of several locals in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

2 "Troops conducted operations around Tungan Rafin Toba village in Birnin Gwari Local Government area and had an encounter with terrorists on motorcycles. Following a firefight, troops neutralized two terrorists and recovered two AK-47 rifles, 51 rounds of 7.62mm special, four AK-47 rifles magazines, five mobile phones, motorcycles and N206,000 among other items.