

ABUJA, □ Nigeria, September 8 (Infosplusgabon) - The Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Air Force on Friday announced new operations aimed at crushing Boko Haram terrorists in the Northeast and criminal elements in the Southeast, including secessionist pro-Biafran groups agitating for the break-up of Nigeria.

While Operation Ruwan Wuta in the Northeast by the Nigerian Air Force is “aimed at further degrading the capability of remnants of Boko Haram Terrorists and routing out criminal elements in the North East from their hideouts,” Operation Egwu Eke (Python Dance) 2 by the Army in the Southeast is meant to tackle instability and criminality in the Southeast.

Nigerian Army Chief of Training and Operations, Maj.-Gen. David Ahmadu, told a news conference on Friday in Abuja that Operation Egwu Eke (Python Dance) 2 will hold between 15 September and 14 October in the Southeastern States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo to check violent criminals, agitators and other forms of criminalities.

He said that the first Operation Egwu Eke (Python Dance) 2 was launched between 27 November and 27 December, 2016, in the zone to tackle kidnapping, armed banditry and other crimes.

Gen. Ahmadu added that the second phase of operation would focus on raids, cordon and

search, patrol road blocks, as well as “show of force” to deal with suspected criminals.

Mr. Ahmadu recalled that the aim of the first phase of the operation was to effectively contain kidnapping and other vices common in the South East during Yuletide.

He added that “the effect of that exercise yielded tremendous results and law abiding citizens celebrated 2016 Christmas in safer environment than what it used to be. Building on this achievements, exercise Egwu Eke II has become more expedient due to spate of assassinations, even in religious places, attacks on security personnel and theft of weapons, kidnapping, armed banditry, violent agitations by secessionist groups, among other crimes that have recently bedevilled the region.

The need for troops to be refreshed and imbibe the requisite skills, to cope with these emerging security challenges within the 82 Division area of responsibility in aid of civil authority necessitated this exercise.”

Explaining that the exercise would be conducted in conjunction with other security organisations, he stated that “during the operation, emphasis will be placed on raids, cordon and search, anti-kidnapping drills, road blocks, check points, patrols, humanitarian relief activities such as medical outreach and show of force to curb the rising threats to national security in the south eastern part of the country.”

Ahmadu noted that the safety and security of law abiding citizens in the area of the operation, comprising Enugu, Imo, Anambra, Abia and Ebonyi states was guaranteed as they were “adequately factored into the exercise.”

The Army’s Chief of Training also said that the fundamental human rights of the people as enshrined in the nation’s constitution would be protected during the exercise.

He added that “additionally, exercise Egwu Eke II has been conceptualised to transit into real time operations, thereby fulfilling both training and operational objectives of sharpening operation skills of personnel, as well as provide avenue to conduct operations against violent criminals and agitators, when called upon.”

He said a Brigade Headquarters would be established in each of five South East states and urged the people of the areas not to panic as their safety was guaranteed.

On Operation Ruwan Wuta, Nigeria’s Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sadique

Abubakar, announced the Northeast special operation at the 2017 Third Quarter meeting with Branch Chiefs, Air Officers Commanding (AOCs) and Commanders of various NAF units in Abuja.

Air Marshal Abubakar said the operation is aimed at further degrading the capability of remnants of Boko Haram Terrorists and routing out criminal elements in the North East from their hideouts.

Abubakar stated that so much had happened in the NAF in the preceding 3 months, adding that reports from units indicated that the NAF was making substantial progress in the discharge of its constitutional responsibilities.

"Since the last meeting, we have flown over 1,077 hours in Operation LAFIYA DOLE, consuming about 1,032,000 litres of aviation fuel in the process," he said.

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