

GOC 6 DIVISION EMBARKS ON OPERATIONAL TOUR...Troops Maintain Trajectory Against Economic Saboteurs

In continuation with his operational tour to locations within the Niger Delta Region (NDR), the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 6 Division, Nigerian Army, Major General Emmanuel Eric Emekah on Saturday, 15 March, 2025 visited troops locations around Ibaa and Rumuji waterways in Emohua Local Government Area (LGA) of Rivers State. The visits were part of his routine operational tour, carried out essentially to ascertain the troops operational readiness and disposition in the renewed onslaught against oil thieves and sundry crimes in the NDR. The GOC visited the notorious Ibaa bunkering hub in Emohua LGA, where he was adequately briefed on the mindless criminality in the area.

Additionally, in a bid to deepen engagement with critical stakeholders, the GOC visited TotalEnergies, where he had fruitful discussion with the management team. The discussion was basically on how to evolve more effective ways of ensuring zero infractions on pipelines, reduction in oil theft and associated crimes in the NDR.

Meanwhile, troops have continued to maintain the onslaught against economic saboteurs within NDR. This was evident in several operations conducted in conjunction with other security agencies from 10 - 16 March 2025. The operations resulted in the dismantling of 21 illegal refining sites, demobilization of 8 boats used for the criminality, arrest of 32 suspected oil thieves, interception of several vehicles and the confiscation of over 160,000 litres of stolen products across the region.

In Rivers State, troops intercepted a truck without plate number, loaded with 45,000 litres of stolen crude along Apajo - Elemenwo Road in Obio - Akpor LGA. At Olughighi ahead of Freedom, at Opobo River, troops uncovered a newly constructed illegal refining site with 10 trains, three pots and a dump having over 20,000 litres of stolen products. Also, around Bille in Degema LGA, one large receiver, metal pipes, cooling system, shelter, 100 meters hose with a reservoir stocked with over 2,000 litres of stolen products were handled in accordance with subsisting operational mandate. While around Ogaji - Ama Creeks in Asari-Toru LGA, 32 sacks filled with over 1,600 litres of stolen products were recovered. At the fringes of Imo River, several illegal refining sites, over 90 drum pots, 40 drum receivers as well as unquantified quantity of stolen products were handled appropriately.

Similarly, in Delta State, along Ughelli - Patani expressway, a Mack Tanker conveying 45,000 litres of products suspected to be stolen crude was intercepted. Around Ndemili Community in Ika South LGA, troops intercepted three vehicles (2 Ford J5 vehicles and one Sequoia Jeep) conveying over 5,000 litres of stolen products stocked in sacks. Two suspected oil thieves were arrested at the scene. Relatedly, troops on routine patrols at the densely forested and swampy areas of Eretu Forest in Sapele LGA, discovered an illegal bunkering camp concealed under the forest. The camp had two cooking ovens and 15 cellophane bags filled with over 1,200 litres of stolen products. At Ode Itsekiri Community in Warri South LGA, one local canoe loaded with 50 cellophane bags filled with over 1,100 litres of illegally refined Automotive Gasoline Oil, were intercepted and handled accordingly.

Meanwhile, In Bayelsa State, along Ladugbene - Ayeregbene Communities in Southern Ijaw LGA (SILGA), one illegal refining site with a boat with over 1,500 litres of stolen products

were handled appropriately. Other seizures were made around Tanaghene, Isonogbene and Otugbene, all in SILGA and Biseni Community in Yenagoa LGA, where Ten big cooking pots, three drum pots and five receivers were demobilized.

Relatedly, In Akwa Ibom State, troops have proactively maintained vigilance along the waterways and hinterlands to thwart possible economic sabotage.

The GOC, Major General Emmanuel Eric Emekah while commending the troops' resilience, charge them to maintain the operational tempo to effectively deny the economic saboteurs freedom of action. He also affirmed that, troops in the NDR have resolved to continually rid the region of oil theft, pipeline vandalism and associated crimes.

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