

Police parade ritual suspect with human heads

A suspected ritualist in possession of two fresh human heads believed to have been exhumed from a cemetery along Akanran road in Ibadan was paraded over the weekend by the Oyo state police command.

Tafa Ayorinde, 40, was paraded with two fresh human heads, one severed hand and some human flesh. The heads were that of a man and a girl.

Responding to questions on how he came about the human heads, Ayorinde said he exhumed the bodies of the deceased at a public cemetery.

"I brought out three coffins from graves and opened them. I got two heads from two coffins and the third coffin contained these bones."

The suspect said he lives on Tafa Street in Orita Aperin in Ibadan. According to him, he committed the crime along with one Kehinde who lives at Oja Igbo area of Ibadan.

"About 7am this morning (Friday), we had already exhumed the bodies and cut the heads. I was the one carrying the cellophane bags in which we kept the heads. As we were about crossing the road, one of the heads fell off and some passers-by saw us and raised alarm.

We were given a hot chase and I was eventually caught, while the second person escaped," Ayorinde told

From Samson Ojo, Lagos journalists.

He explained that he wanted to use the heads and other human parts for rituals that would fetch him some money.

"Nobody sent me. I was a driver before I changed to a herbalist. This is my first time to engage in things like this," he confessed.

The police public rela-

tions officer (PPRO) of the state's command, Mr. Fatai Sanni, while briefing journalists over the development, disclosed that the suspect was yet to tell the whole truth.

The police spokesman maintained that the suspect might 'have been sent by some people'.

"But until we interrogate him further, we cannot get to the root of the matter," the

PPRO said, stressing that the police would intensify investigations to unravel the matter.

But some residents of Abonde area of Akanran, Ibadan, from where the suspect claimed he had exhumed the bodies, while corroborating the statement of the police spokesperson, said that there was no public cemetery in the area.

Obasanjo test-fires new rifle at DICON

President Olusegun Obasanjo at the weekend test-ran the new OBJ 006 rifle produced by Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), Kaduna.

Obasanjo, who was on a one-day working visit to the state, did not comment on the capabilities of the rifle after carrying out the test-firing at the shooting range of the corporation at its Kaduna office.

The production of the locally manufactured OBJ rifle, which has been likened to the popular AK 47 rifle currently brought in from Russia for the use of the Nigeria Police and the Nigerian Army, was initiated in February 2006, according to the minister for defence, Dr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso.

Represented by the minister of state for defence, Thomas Aguiyi Ironsi,

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Kaduna

Kwankwaso said the OBJ 006 rifle was ready for mass production once the factory and the machines had been upgraded as it would save Nigeria a lot of foreign exchange.

DICON's director general, Brigadier Ndukwe Maduegbunam, said the factory was ready for full revitalization if the sum of N1bn promised by the president was made available for the refurbishment the factory.

"The resuscitation plan has been divided into three phases: the first, which is the initial activation, will cost us N1bn and will affect the 230 milling machines and the 220 assorted ones. The second and third phases come up later. With adequate patronage, we can improve well on our productions."

Obasanjo had earlier laid

the foundation of the Makarfi city layout bridge and commissioned the state's High Court extension, as well as the jointly sponsored Kawo overhead bridge, where Governor Makarfi reminded him of his promise to lay the foundation of the N958m bridge.

Shekarau charges on

The Kano state governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, says henceforth it is mandatory for all public and private organizations in the state to hoist the national flag in their premises in the spirit of patriotism and respect for the country.

The governor, who stated this in an address at the 46th Independence day anniversary held at the Sani Abacha Stadium, emphasised that the flag must not only be recognized but respected.

To ensure compliance,