

3 Three beggars allegedly poisoned to death, others hospitalized in Osun

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

Three beggars reportedly died yesterday while three others were hospitalised after eating food distributed to them by a suspected ritualist at Oke-Gada area, Ede Community in Osun State.

It was gathered that the suspected ritualist, whose identity could not be ascertained, distributed food to the beggars and also gave each of them N500 cash.

A source in the community said "It was very unfortunate. We just realised that the beggars were not feeling okay. Before we could act, three of them died. We quickly rushed the other three to the hospital where they are receiving treatment."

One of the residents who preferred anonymity told Daily Trust that the person who distributed food to the beggars on Sunday had an ulterior motive.

He said, "Some of the beggars told us that someone brought food for them and also gave them N500 each on Sunday. They ate the food and problem started. We are suspecting that the person might be a ritualist. It's very bad."

The Police Public Relations Officer for Osun State Police Command, DSP Yemisi Opalola, confirmed the death of the three beggars and those hospitalised.

The PPRO said "some unknown persons gave poisoned food to beggars at Oke-Gada area in Ede, leading to the death of three and another three persons hospitalized."

The police spokesperson said police detectives have commenced investigation on the matter and assured that the perpetrator would not go unpunished.