Last year, a victim, identified as Abdullahi, was killed in Oke-Apomu Quarters of Ilorin metropolis in a clash preparatory to the anniversary of the 7/7 carnival. The cultists had targeted the elder brother of the victim, Ibrahim, but met Abdullahi and shot him dead. The development led to an orgy of killings, leading to the police rounding up several suspects.

Speaking with Daily Trust Saturday, Mr Olaiya said, "Over 100 suspected cultists have been arrested in the last few months in a renewed onslaught against the menace.

"Our efforts have led to some reduction in their activities, which was a very big challenge. But we are very ready for any festival, and my advice for them is to desist from it and shun cultism altogether because it will not be palatable. We have a very good anti-cultism team in place now. We tried to put their ugly heads behind bars and then it rose again around March/April/May with over 100 of them arrested and remanded. But we are not folding our arms."