

Police declare nine wanted over FCT council chief's murder

*From Terhemba Daka,
Abuja*

the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command yesterday declared nine suspects wanted.

The Police authorities said, however, that they were already holding in their custody, ready for prosecution, the Vice Chairman of the council, Mallam Adamu Sa'idu Ashara, for allegedly masterminding the killing of the council chief.

Mari was gunned down by four unknown men on January 28, 2008, at about 4.30 p.m. while his orderly and driver sustained serious injuries during the attack. The Police orderly, Sergeant Dauda Gwada, later died at the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital in Abuja.

Briefing journalists at the Command's Headquarters, the FCT Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Haruna John, gave an update on police investigations in the matter.

He stated that the command has collated abundant evidence to sustain charges against the suspects over the gruesome murder of the late council chairman and his orderly.

He said the police had already filed charges against the suspects at the high court, adding that the court earlier adjourned the case, "but the process will resume today in Abuja".

While lamenting the delay in tracking down the nine suspects who are on the run, the CP called on members of the public to collaborate with the police to enable the authorities

ensure that they are brought to justice.

The FCT Minister of State, John James Akpanudoedehe, last Tuesday assured residents of Kwali Area Council that the government would soon complete investigations into the murder and prosecute perpetrators of the act.

Akpanudoedehe gave the assurance while addressing the residents at the Kwali Town Hall before commissioning some of the projects completed by the late Mari before his assassination.

The Minister of State who described Mari's death as a big blow and a challenge to the FCT Administration, assured that "we are doing everything humanly possible, everything scientifically possible and everything spiritually possible to apprehend those who killed Mari".

FOR their alleged role in the murder of Kwali Area Council Chairman, Samuel Gwamna Mari,

Oyo

Nigeria is the prime partner of the African Development Fund (ADF) wherein we have the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF)", he added.

Describing his trip to the temporary headquarters of the ADB as rewarding, Alao-Akala thanked the people of Oyo for the support he had received so far.

He added: "One by one, we will solve the myriad of problems that my administration inherited. All the sectors, particularly what I consider as human sectors, will be touched. And wherever we find the solution, there we will go. This is a victory to the people of Oyo State and we want it recognised as such..." the governor said.