

5 Kid Ritual Killers Arrested For Slaughtering 11 Year Old Pupil

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Bama town, the headquarters of Borno State was on Thursday thrown into horror when men of the Nigerian Police arrested four teenagers and one 23-year-old marabout in connection with the killing of a six-year-old primary school pupil whose heart was removed for money-making rituals.

Danladi Musa, the 17-year-old leader of the five culprits, told the police in Bama and at the force headquarters Maiduguri that "we killed the boy to make money and get ourselves rich".

Apart from the three others who were all older than Danladi, he and the marabout did not exhibit any sign of remorse or fear of the wicked act as they continued to give detailed account of how they killed the child. As if the issue is all about a ram killed before festivities, so did Danladi and his cohorts relay the story of how they got information from a relatively rich young fellow in Bama town, who informed them of how they could get rich through rituals. According to them a fellow Bama young man, who got rich suddenly, told them of one acclaimed Islamic Malam

resident in Bama town who could make them rich in no time but certainly with a fee.

When they contacted the said ritual money maker, Mallam Bukar Goni, who confirmed his capabilities, he gave them two conditions; one is that they must provide N50,000 or get a human heart with which he would concoct the medicine that will turn them to millionaires over night. When they said they could not afford the fee, one of them, Danladi, the youngest and an SSS III student of Bama Government Secondary School, told the others that he had gotten the human heart.

When the others quizzed him on how he came about it, he said that that should not be their concern. But later revealed to them that he managed to get one of the arrested accomplices to help him lure an 11 year old primary school pupil to the school toilet where he slit his throat and got his heart removed.

Shocked by the news, one of earlier accomplices, who could have been the fifth went to reveal the incident to his father who made it to the police before they could get to the ritual marabout.

Danladi, who was alleged to have been involved in the killing of a security guard in Bama town some years back,

said "I killed the boy to get money... I did not do it for anybody but myself because I needed to get very rich that's all"

One of the accomplices, Baba Kaka Mustapha told *Saturday Independent* at the police headquarters that he was not in the know of what Danladi wanted to do with the child at the time he asked him to call him. "I thought he wanted to send him on an errand that was why I helped him to call the boy when he was playing with his mates at the premises of the boarding primary school", he said. While another of the culprits Ya'ana Babagana, 22, said Danladi just asked him to accompany him to the money maker that he has the item he asked him to bring for the rituals. "I did not have any thing to do with the idea. Even if he makes his money, it is his not mine", he said.

But Babagana, who is two years older than Danladi, did not say why he did not alert his parents or the police.

The state police commissioner, Shehu Babalola, who told journalists that investigation is ongoing with a view to fish out others connected with the ritual killing. He however said the culprits will soon be taken to court.