

# SUNDAY PARADE

THE NATION Sunday June 25, 2023



## Ritual Killings: Yahoo Boys' new-found love

• Traditionalist, cleric, others bare minds on disturbing trend

*If their quest to "blow", as the popular argot goes, is alarming, their resort to diabolical means, including killing fellow human beings to make money, is most worrisome. In this report, GBENGA ADERANTI digs into the attraction to the condemnable practice by youths and ways to stem it.*

**S**UNNY (surname withheld) is a successful electrical contractor, who is loved by all in his Ogun State community.

However, his sudden strange behaviour got people in his neighbourhood worried, recently.

It all began after he suffered loss of memory and could not recognise any of his friends anymore.

His condition worsened when his conversations became indistinct, a situation that drew the empathy of many around him.

On different occasions, he had been overheard saying things like, "I will give you your bag; I will give you your bag," to nobody in particular.

Suspecting that it could be a spiritual attack, his family members took him to a white garment church, where he underwent spiritual cleansing.

About a week after his spiritual cleansing, Sunny, Sunny, regained his memory and returned to his normal self, to the pleasure of his family.

But they soon became more agitated and curious, after his sickness relapsed.

While they were juggling their brains about the fate that had befallen him, Sunny's younger brother happened on a calabash filled with a black soap in his room.

It was later discovered that Sunny had embarked on "Bisa Bisa", a street parlance for money making soap.

Speaking with *The Nation*, his friend, Tayo, said: "When we saw the soap and calabash in his room, we knew he was into *bisa bisa*."

But what could have made a promising young man go into such? Tayo further revealed that Sunny's problem started when one Akpan, whom he grew up with, visited the neighbourhood in a Camry car.

Akpan did not accord Sunny any courtesy; in fact, he treated him curiously, to the astonishment of all who knew their antecedents. The reason

was that Sunny was doing better than Akpan, who barely finished secondary school," Tayo said.

According to him, Sunny later found out that Akpan was into internet-related fraud, otherwise known as *Yahoo Yahoo*. "This is what probably pushed him into '*bisa, bisa*,' Tayo further explained.

At the time of writing this report, Sunny was still at an undisclosed location in Oyo State, where he was undergoing spiritual treatment.

Like Sunny, Bayo Akande (not real name) cuts a pitiable sight. Those who know him claimed he brought the poor fate upon himself, after getting involved in a money ritual.

No doubt, it came with some dire consequences that have altered the cause of life of his family members too. His beautiful sister, who lived in the neighbourhood, became a recluse of sorts, as the stigma occasioned by Bayo's immoral deed became her shadow, following her everywhere.

It was so bad that his family members, including his step-dad who had to sell his house in the area, were forced to relocate to another part of the state.

If Sunny and Bayo are suffering today because of their inordinate ambition for wealth, others have gone to the extreme by killing fellow beings in their quest to make money.

On a daily basis, passersby around the Alagbole area of Ogun State behold in wonderment the spectacle of a young man who harasses women and motorists unprovoked.

The young man, who is probably in his 30s, was said to be doing well until he decided on an infamous journey of money-making ritual.

**Desperate to 'blow'**

About a month ago, the video of an unidentified secondary school teenager, whose neck was dripping with blood, went viral online.

He was reported to have escaped death after



a failed attempt by his friends to slaughter him for money rituals.

According to the reports, the teenager and his friends were planning to do a money ritual, but while they were on their way in the jungle to see the ritualist, they decided to kill him.

In the process, the teenager, whose neck was partially severed, pretended to be dead and managed to escape before he was eventually rescued.

While he is alive to tell the story, others have not been that lucky.

Sometime in April last year, one Ifeanyi Njoku was arrested in Lagos in connection with the brutal murder of his girlfriend, Precious Okeke.

Njoku's quest to make money pushed him into the act.

According to reports, a local spiritual practitioner had instructed Njoku to engage in sexual intercourse with Okeke's lifeless body; and Njoku, desperate, had carried out the directive to the letter for six unbroken days.

The putrefying odour from the decomposing body of the deceased was said to have caused the neighbours raise the alarm.

During interrogation, Njoku confessed to the murder and admitted that his motive was to employ Okeke in a money-making ritual.

In May, a 29-year-old internet fraudster, Amos Olaleye, was arrested by the Police in Lagos for killing his sister for a money ritual.

Shockingly, Olaleye, in his statement to the Police, said: "My mother was the one who took me to a native doctor. He said I would have to sacrifice one of my siblings if I wanted to be successful. He said the one to be sacrificed must be the one I loved most."

"I am into *Yahoo* business. After hearing from him, it took me months before I could make up my mind on whether to embark on the assignment."

He further stated that while he was grappling with the thought, his mother kept encouraging him to go ahead and kill his sister, so that they could be rich and end the poverty in the family.

"My mother planned the entire incident by going out to buy poison, which she put in my sister's food. The native doctor also instructed that I must sleep with my sister's corpse and suck her vagina before throwing the corpse into a river for the ritual to be completed," he added.

In a related development, *The Nation* gathered that a young man in Uromi, Edo State allegedly used his mother for a money ritual.

His father was said to have warned his wife never to drive the expensive car bought for her by the young man because he was not comfortable with his sudden wealth.

Unfortunately, the woman did not heed the advice, as she died the very day she drove the car.

A close family member told *The Nation* that "The car the young man bought for his late mum is still parked somewhere; nobody is using it."

"He organised an elaborate burial for his mum, and it was the talk of the town for a very long time. He, thereafter, bought a property, demolished it and re-built it."

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