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## **Prisons probes Ibadan jail break**

The Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS) has set up a preliminary panel of inquiry into the attempted jailbreak at Agodi Prisons, Ibadan on Tuesday. During the attempt, eight inmates died, while four prison officials and 14 inmates sustained injuries.

Spokesman of the Oyo State Command of NPS, Mr Shedrack Ogundahunsi, said in Ibadan yesterday that the two-man panel is headed by the Deputy Controller-General of Prisons (Operations), Dr. Zack Aghi.

He said Aghi would be assisted by the Deputy Controller-General (Medical Services), Dr. Hassan Lambo.

Ogundahunsi explained that the two, who arrived in Ibadan on Tuesday, had interrogated inmates, prison officials and other relevant persons.

He said the panel was expected to submit an interim report before Thursday to NPS Controller-General Sola Ogundipe, who visited Agodi Prison on Tuesday.

Ogundahunsi said two of the four injured warders had been discharged from the hospital, while the 14 injured inmates were still at the University College Hospital, (UCH) Ibadan.

He said the members of the panel visited UCH yesterday to see the injured.

He confirmed that the remains of the dead were deposited at the UCH mortuary.

Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala described the incident as “unfortunate” and promised that the government would assist the state command of the NPS to prevent recurrence.

Represented by Dotun Oyelade, his Special Adviser on Public Communications, the governor called for adequate security at the prisons.

“It is a very unfortunate incident and I hope that necessary security precaution will be taken to prevent a breach of security in future.

“As a government, we feel concerned and believe that those elements that led to the incident will be quickly addressed.

“Government’s efforts at assisting prisons authorities will depend on how much involvement the prisons want from the state and we will respond immediately that demand is made,” he said.

Alao-Akala said the government had dispatched some members of the state’s executive council for an on-the-spot assessment of damage to the facility.

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