

From left, Mr Rotimi Akeredolu, All Progressives Congress governorship aspirant in Ondo State; Honourable Isaac Kekemeke, state chairman of APC; Mr Ade Adetimehin, deputy chairman and Honourable Rotimi Rahman, the state secretary, during Akeredolu's declaration of intention to contest the next governorship election in the state on the platform of APC.

Student dies during alleged ritual process in Ogun

—As police recover N7.5 million ransom from kidnappers

OLAYINKA OLUKOYA - ABEOKUTA

A Senior Secondary School (SS1) student, in one of the popular secondary schools in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, had been reported dead, during an alleged ritual process, last Saturday.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the 16-year-old victim lost his life following alleged administration of a liquid substance on him by three of his classmates.

The victim, was alleged to have embarked on money making ritual with other colleagues before the incident happened.

Information had it that the deceased, who had since been buried, was given a substance alongside others to swallow by one of them whose father is a native doctor.

He was reported to have fallen ill two days after and eventually died while another is presently receiving medical attention at an undisclosed hospital.

The other students involved in the crime have been arrested by policemen attached to Adatan Division for interrogation.

On Tuesday, authorities of the school (names withheld)

summoned a meeting with the parents of the entire student populace where the incident was discussed.

A senior official of the school confirmed the incident and that the incident happened outside the school.

The official said the incident was a reflection of the level of moral decadence in the society and that the state Ministry of Education had equally commenced investigation into the matter.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said reports on the incident were conflicting and that the command had begun full investigation into the matter.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Police Command have recovered a sum of N 7.4 million paid as ransom to some suspected kidnappers.

This was disclosed by the state Commissioner of Police, Abdulmajid Ali, while parading suspects of various crime acts at the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) headquarters at Magbon area of Abeokuta, the state capital.

Ali explained that the suspects, numbering 11, were

arrested from various parts of the state.

The said money, according to the police boss, was recovered from the kidnappers of a 35-year-old woman (name withheld), at Ejirin road, Ijebu-Ode.

Ali said that two members of the gang, Femi Nejo and Gbenga Taiwo arrested by the police confessed to have engaged in series of kidnapping activities.

Ali said that Nejo confessed that they kidnapped one Ismaila, Dele Eleja and Baba Yellow.

The police boss also said that four suspects were arrested for vandalism, adding that one of them was a guard with a private security company outfit engaged to monitor pipelines at Igbeja in Sagamu Local Government Area of the state.

Items recovered from the suspects include 50 pieces of 50 litres jerry cans filled with petroleum products and one operational vehicle marked LAGOS KTU 64 XB.

He also confirmed the arrest of some sea pyrates at Iyana-Ilogbo, who were travelling to Abeokuta on a mission to kill.

Ali said the suspects from Warri in Delta had confessed to the crime while the robbery suspects were said to have snatched an *Acura Jeep* with customised registration number 22G from one Mrs Gbenga at gunpoint at Italapo area in Ijebu-Ode.

Students destroyed during riot —SNI

OLUWOLE IGE - OSOGBO

CHAIRMAN, governing council of the Southern Nigeria Institute of Innovative Technology (SNI-IT), Ifewara, Osun State, Dr Kola Christweath, on Wednesday, valued properties burnt by students of the institution during a recent riot at about N500 million.

He, therefore, urged the police to effect the arrest of suspected arsonists who carried out the dastardly act so that they could be prosecuted.

Christweath, who made this disclosure at a press conference in Osogbo, lamented that the irate students set ablaze laboratories, mini television studio;