



Sanya

By TUNDE THOMAS

**ALTHOUGH** he is now 15 years old and bears an innocent look, beneath the façade lies the heart of a lion. To many people, especially those meeting him for the first time, Busayo Sanya is just an ordinary teenager who can't hurt a fly. But that is where it ends. Within the last four years, Busayo has traversed the world of drugs, cultism and armed robbery.

Busayo started with drugs at 11. An orphan, he was living with his parents at Ijebu-Igbo in Ogun State, before he relocated to Lagos State to stay with one of his father's relations after the death of his parents.

According to Busayo, who narrated his sojourn in the world of crime to *Saturday Sun* at a place where he is currently undergoing rehabilitation, he was introduced to hard drugs by members of a robbery gang that he encountered while returning home from school on a particular day.

"My guardian and other members of the family were determined that I should make it in life after the death of my parents. My mother died in a mysterious fire that razed our apartment one night around 2011. Shortly my father passed away. With the circumstances surrounding the death of my parents, my family members vowed to ensure that I was given good education. I was there when they made the pledge during my father's funeral. On getting to Lagos, I was registered in one of the best secondary schools in Ayobo, and everything was going on well until one day I was returning from school and I ran into some young men that were smoking — one

of them called me and sent me on an errand to which I obliged", he stated.

Busayo added that upon his return from the errand, he was told to keep the remaining money. He further said that few days later he ran into the men and again they sent him on errand, and thereafter asked him to keep N700 balance.

One thing led to another, Busayo said one of the men later asked him to join their group, telling him that their association is one that usually did good to others, and that they were also generous to people. However, unknown to Busayo, the young men were members of Aye Cult, and this was how he found himself becoming a cultist.

"Since these men have been nice to me, I had no reason to believe that they are evil men. It was after I had agreed to join them that I realised that they are cultists, and after I discovered that they are evil men, it was too late to back out — they even told me that I will die if I confess to anybody that I belong to a cult."

Asked how he was initiated, Busayo said incisions were made on different parts of his body including his tongue and was also made to drink blood. The teenager revealed that immediately after the initiation, he became a changed person as his thinking, actions and behaviour started reflecting that of an adult.

"I became bold. I even started challenging elderly members of the cult to duels. At times, I would even jump up and give dirty slaps to taller and older members of the group who I felt were rude to me. One day, the leader of the group, a man called *Fearless* told me that I had impressed him and that he was ready to help me become a successful person in life. He told me that I will