Man, 33, hacks farmer to death ... As police parade 42 suspects in Ogun

From **Laide Raheem**, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State Police Command has arrested one Kelani, for allegedly killing a farmer, Ogha David Adima. Thirty-three-year-old Kelani, was among the 42 suspects paraded yesterday at the Eleweran, Abeokuta, Ogun State, headquarters of the command, for crimes ranging from kidnapping, human trafficking to armed robbery and murder.

According to the Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, the suspect had on August 13, 2017, stormed a cassava farm belonging to Adima in Sojulu village, via Ibogun, in Ifo local Government Area of the state, to uproot cassava tubers.

The suspect, who was caught in the act by Adima, however, attacked him with a machete to prevent him from raising the alarm.

The deceased, an indigene of Benue State, was said to have sustained cuts around the neck region and died on the farm. Kelani, was reported to have fled the scene of the crime, but was apprehended two days later by the police.

Iliyasu described Kelani as a serial thief, who specialised in stealing farm produce in the community. He also said that he had once been given public punishment for stealing tomatoes from a farm.

Fielding questions from our correspondent, the suspect denied committing the crime.

He claimed that when the deceased met him on his farm, he attacked him with a machete and it was in the process of wresting the machete from his grip that it cut Adima's neck. He confessed going to the farm to steal cassava, which he wanted to process to cassava flakes.

He added that he begged Adima not to raise the alarm but he ignored him and started beating him with the machete.

In a related development, 39 suspected hoodlums residing in a tunnel at the Kara Market/Long Bridge axis of Lagos-Ibadan Expressway were paraded by the command.