

Lagos pupils: 20 kidnappers, 1 civilian killed, 8 policemen injured –CP

July 29, 2017 Muritala Ayinla



Emotions yesterday flew freely as parents of the abducted Lagos State Model College, Igbonla, Epe, reunited with their parents 65 days after they were kidnapped by the gunmen. This was even as the Ondo State Governor, Mr. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, narrated how the Acting President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, intervened by alerting that the kidnappers were hiding in one of the creeks in Ondo State with the students. According to Akeredolu, the alert made his administration to swiftly respond by combing the creeks, adding that efforts were also made to contact people living in the area through his deputy.

He added that his deputy, Mr Agboola Ajayi, also linked up with the Delta State deputy governor to negotiate with the abductors through the network of the Acting President, who wanted the children released at all cost.

Akeredolu spoke alongside the Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr Idiat Oluranti Adebule, the Lagos State Police Commissioner, Fatai Owoseni, Ajayi and other members of the State Executive Council led by the state's Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Steve Ayorinde. Akeredolu also lauded Ambode for his unwavering efforts to ensure the release of the students, saying that Ambode did not only call him but also raised the kidnap issue at every fora.

Harping on the rescue operations, Owoseni disclosed that 20 kidnappers and an innocent civilian were killed in gun battle with the Marine Police in the process of trying to secure the release of the students. Owoseni disclosed that one Bright Adeniji and others died in a gun battle with the Marine Police as they ambushed the policemen.

He said the police ensured that the third boat where the kidnapped students were being kept was safe. The commissioner added that on July 15, the kidnappers tried to seize the gun boat of the Marine Police and that in the process, another gun battle ensued, while one Oniwe Oyelasi, popularly known as ‘Americana’ was killed with two others.

He said the kidnappers launched several offensive, but that the police were able to handle it as they had been well motivated. Earlier, Adebule expressed gratitude to the Acting President, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, for his worthwhile effort leading to the release of the students, saying that the government would carry out a comprehensive medical test on the students to ascertain their mental, physical and psychological wellbeing.

She said the state government was working hard to ensure safety of lives and property in the state, adding that government would ensure that the schools were well policed before the resumption of the next academic calendar. Meanwhile, parents of the rescued school children were happy as they were reunited with their children. Speaking with Saturday Telegraph, Mr. Moruf Rahmon father of Isiaka, said he was quite happy to be reunited with his son, even as he expressed his gratitude to God, the state government and the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, Mr. Fatai Owoseni, for making all efforts to ensure rescuing of the kidnapped school children.

Rahman, who disclosed that he was one of those who had the opportunity to be speaking with the kidnappers three days after the schoolchildren were kidnapped, also expressed appreciation to the newsmen for standing by the parents throughout the period of their travails. He prayed against such ugly occurrence in Lagos and Nigeria again.

“I am very happy, and I thank the Lagos State government, especially the Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owoseni, God will reward him and his family. We thank God for what has happened today. ”I was one of those people that were engaging the kidnappers in dialogue since the abduction. We commenced three days after the incident and the police were with us and they tried hard, God would continue to reward them, God will save us from danger.

“We also thanked the newsmen too for standing by us, God will also reward you all. God would not allow us to witness this kind of ugly incident in Lagos and in Nigeria,” he said. Another parent, a woman, lamented the incident, but quickly expressed her joy seeing her son back hail and hearty, saying the 65-day trauma was better imagined than experienced. “It is better imagined than experienced. I am happy that he is back,” he said.