

Kidnap kingpin, other suspects arrested in Kano

By Bashir Bello

A 23-year-old female suspected kidnapper, Maryam Mohammed, alias Hajija, yesterday revealed how they lured their victims to their resident before demanding ransom.

Speaking during her parade alongside her gang members by the Kano State Police Command, yesterday, in Kano, Maryam said they contacted one of their victims, Muhammad Sunusi, via his mobile phone that she wanted to buy a new Samsung handset, which cost about N65,000,00.

She disclosed that the victim drove his Toyota vehicle to the apartment and they opened the gate of the house, and as soon as he entered, he was attacked by four of them.

She added that they tied him up, took his car to Zamfara State and contacted his family for N10 million ransom, adding that they planned to kill him after collecting the ransom because the victim knew the apartment and recognised them.

The Kano State Police Command spokesman, Abdullahi Haruna, said the command received a complaint from one Sunusi Adu, whose son, Muhammad Sunusi, was kidnapped and a ransom of N10 million was demanded to secure his release.

Haruna said upon receiving the complaint the state Commissioner of Police, Habu Sani, deployed its men and officers to swing into action, leading to the arrest of the four suspects, including the female kidnapper, Maryam.

He said: "Upon receipt of the complaint, CP Sani instructed a team of Operation Puffi Adder, led by DSP Shehu Dahiru, to arrest the culprits. "The team swiftly swung into action, and following credible intelligence, on Friday, three days after the report, raided an apartment at Jaba Quarters, Ungogo LGA of Kano State where the victim was held hostage.

"The team cordoned the area, engaged the occupants of the house in a fierce gun battle, successfully rescued the victim unhurt and arrested the four suspects.

"Investigation revealed that Maryam's husband, one Sani Ismail, of Bidda LGA of Niger State, who was a notorious cattle rustler, was killed in Butsa village, Gusau LGA of Zamfara State while carting away rustled cows.

"After the death of the husband, her brother, one Hamza Dogo, of Butsa village, Gusau LGA of Zamfara State, also a notorious kidnapper, relocated her to Kano, where she rented apartment in Unguwa Uku, Panshekara and Maidile Quarters. She later moved to Jaba Quarters and rented another apartment for N600,000, per annum, which she turned into a kidnappers' den.

I was initiated by my late husband—Maryam

"Upon interrogation, Maryam said she was initiated into the kidnapping activities by her late husband, Sani Ismail, who was also a cattle rustler and was killed during an operation.

She said her uncle, Hamza Dogo (also a kidnapper) assisted her to relocate to Kano where she rented an apartment in Jaba Quarters, Ungogo LGA of Kano State and used it as hideout and kidnappers' den.

She confessed further that the same



Rescued victim, Muhammad Sunusi.

syndicate kidnapped one Alhaji Shafiu Umar, of Nailbawa Quarters, Kumbotso LGA of Kano State, and held him hostage in Zamfara State.



Suspects paraded by the police

They collected a ransom of N10 million and a brand new Boxer motorcycle and also made away with his Toyota Corolla LE car valued at N2,500,000.

"One AK-47 rifle, one magazine loaded with 30 rounds of live ammunition and an unregistered Boxer motorcycle were recovered."

Narrating his ordeal, the rescued victim, Muhammad Sunusi, who specialises in phone business at Beruit Road, said he was kidnapped and starved for three days by the gang.

Sunusi said the kidnap kingpin, Maryam, was his customer who visited his shop.

....As Police parade 10 for kidnapping, robbery in Calabar

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR—ONE Prince Okon Etim, the second-in-command to a wanted kidnapper, "Romance," has been arrested by operatives of the Cross River State Police command.

He was one of the 10 suspects arrested for various offences like kidnapping, armed robbery, rape and cultism in different parts of the state.

Parading the suspects, yesterday, the Cross River State Commissioner of Police, Sikiru Akande, said four locally made pistols, one English made pistol with six rounds of 9mm ammunition as well as other items were recovered from the suspects.

He used the occasion to warn criminals operating in the state to either leave or be smoked out.

The police boss, who assumed office Monday, said: "I am not a stranger in Cross River State, to that end, the security situation in the three senatorial districts of the state



The suspects

has already been taken note of.

"These can be achieved through strategic planning aimed at Police community policing partnership, problems solving and organisational transformation for better and efficient service delivery.

"It is imperative to let the public know that I am in town strictly to ensure the security of lives and property as such the command is going to wage relentless and serious onslaught on criminals across the

state

"We have created a robust intelligence network/platform with members of the public and private individuals and confidence building."

He assured residents of the state to sleep with their two eyes closed, while appealing that all hands should be on deck by supporting the police to achieve maximum success in the fight against crime.

....Arrest organiser of Ilorin naked party

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—Operatives of Kwara State Police Command have arrested the lead member of a gang reportedly planning a strip party in selected places in Ilorin metropolis.

The state police commissioner, Mohammed Bagega, while parading the suspect, one Akinsola Babatunde, aka Mr White, in Ilorin, yesterday, at the command headquarters, said credible intelligence carried out on the criminal activities of the gang led to the arrest of the suspect at 16, Achimugun Street, Flower Garden, Ilorin.

The police boss, who said the organisers of the strip party had advertised the show on social media for prospective subscribers at N20,000 per person, added that they planned to hold it in lounges, club houses and service apartments in the metropolis and its environs.

He also said the police, leading to the arrest, acted undercover in an attempt to participate, played along as prospective participants, and paid the required amount.

Bagega said: "Immoral and

illegal action of Mr White and his accomplices contradicted the COVID-19 protocol, adding that it promotes crime and criminality.

"Operatives of the State Intelligence Bureau, attached to the command, carried out a sting operation involving tactical undercover and manoeuvre. We played along with them by posing as one of the interested persons.

"We paid the advertised sum of money to a given bank account. With the cooperation of the other stakeholders, we nabbed the suspect while he went to cash the money in the bank.

"Effort is ongoing to arrest the fleeing members of the gang and they will be charged to court as soon as the investigation is completed."

Estate agent docked over alleged N

By Onozure Dania

LAGOS—An estate agent, Adetimi Durojaiye, has been arraigned before a Federal High Court, sitting in Lagos, for allegedly obtaining N10 million by false pretence from one Olatunde Egbesola.

Durojaiye, who is said to be a Personal Assistant (PA) to a Commissioner in Lagos State, was docked before Justice Saliu Saidu on a two-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence, by the men of Force Criminal Investigation Department (ForceCID) Annex, Alagbon-Ikoyi, Lagos.

The prosecutor Mr Tijjani Williams, in a charge, marked FHC/147C/2020, told the court that the defendant and others now at large, committed the offences, sometime in June 2017.

He said that the defendant, fraudulently obtained N10 million, from his victim, Olatunde Egbesola, after he falsely presented to him that he wanted to redevelop his family house located at 10, Ojora Close, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The offences, according to the prosecutor, is contrary to Section 8(a), 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act No. 14 of 2006 and Punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.