

## Police uncover illegal security outfit where people are killed, buried in Lagos

By Evelyn Usman

**T**HE Lagos State Police Command has uncovered an illegal security outfit where people are killed and buried in shallow graves in Ikorodu area of Lagos.

Arrested were three suspected members of the illegal outfit: Israel Okon, (42); Joe Nwoke Charles (35) and Ishola Kazeem, 64.

Recovered in the outfit were some human skeletons, 18 expended cartridges, eight dummy wooden guns, charms, a banner with the inscription of the name of the outfit 'Citizen For Peace and First Aid Mission of Nigeria' and the outfit's operational Golf car with plate number USR 158 HP.

One of the human skulls was recovered from Kazeem, who confessed to be a herbalist.

Explaining how the suspects were arrested, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Police Command, Hakeem Odumosu, who was recently promoted to an Assistant Inspector General of Police, during the end of the year briefing, yesterday, at the command headquarters Ikeja, said, "Detectives attached to Sagamu busted the camp based on credible intelligence report.

Innocent citizens are arrested, detained and tortured in the illegal security outfit.

Investigation revealed that the illegal outfit was recruiting and training young Nigerians who were kitted with uniforms and accoutrements similar to those of government agencies in Nigeria.

While clamping down on the camp of the illegal outfit at Sagamu road, at about 10am, on December 11, 2021, a shallow grave was discovered where human skeletons including a skull of a victim who was allegedly arrested and tortured to death were found. During investigation, some suspects including a native doctor who is a member of a gang allegedly using the parts of their victims for ritual purposes were arrested.

One of the suspects, Okon, told Saturday Vanguard that he was invited to work as a private guard in the outfit, only to discover more than what he bargained for.

According to him, "I was deployed to a hotel at Ita-Oluwo, on Shagamu road, to work as a guard. But I discovered later that they were involved in rituals. I witnessed the death of only one person. The person was a robber who went to rob at the hotel where I was working.



Suspected members of a killer gang in Ikorodu paraded by the Police

Owner of the hotel told our Commander to take the robber to the police station but he took him to our base, where the man died. My Commander asked me to dig a grave where the robber was buried. Thereafter, he detained me at the base because he didn't want me to expose him. One week later, our Commander brought out the corpse and cut off its head. He took it to a herbalist."

The 64-year-old herbalist, Kazeem, admitted to have collected the skull.

He said he intended to use it for concoction for the treatment of migraine and headache that had defied medical treatment.

AIG Odumosu said the suspects would be charged to court.

## PDP, Ozekhome, others, fault Buhari's performance claims

By Dirisu Yakubu

**T**HE Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has dismissed claims by the federal government as represented by Information and Culture Minister, Lai Mohammed that it has done enough for Nigerians in line with its electioneering promises.

The main opposition party in a statement by its spokesman, Debo Ologunagba said the performance claim by the All Progressives Congress, APC government "can only be a product of delusions of grandeur, a joke of the year, as the word on the street where the real Nigerians are, is completely at variance with the fabricated lies and imaginary performance indices contained in the report."

On economy, the PDP noted that the federal government has become "so addicted to falsehood that it had forgotten that Nigerians are aware that the PDP government handed over a \$550 billion economy (largest in Africa and 26th globally) and a diversified economy to the APC in 2015.

"Today, our nation has become the poverty capital of the world due to the mismanagement, corruption and recklessness of the APC government. In

2015, Nigeria's external debt was \$7.3 billion. Today, under the clueless APC government, in just over six years, the external debt has reached over \$38 billion and counting, with no corresponding investment in the economy or infrastructure. "Today, the poverty rate in Nigeria is 71 percent as against 32 percent when the APC government took over in 2015. Between January and September 2021, over \$1.8 billion dollar was expended on debt services, yet the APC government can shamelessly claim to have performed in 2021.

"It is self-evident that only the APC gangsters can claim to have performed in the face of life discounting experiences of the ordinary Nigerians. Thankfully, Nigerians now know them for who they are."

Still on the performance claim, Ologunagba added that the President Muhammadu Buhari-led government "has nothing to say to the fact that under its watch, the naira has collapsed from N198 to a dollar handed over to it in 2015 to over N500 today; that the pump price of fuel has risen from N87 per liter in 2015 to N165 per liter today; that unemployment has risen from 7.3 percent in 2015 to over 33 per

cent today and that price of food items have so skyrocketed that millions of Nigerian families are no longer able to afford their daily meals and other basic necessities of life."

Apart from the Information Minister, President had recently stated in Paris at the Nigeria International Partnership Forum, NIPF that his administration has succeeded in revitalizing the nation's economy, built infrastructure and uplifted the living standards of Nigerians since he assumed power in 2015.

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Chief Mike Ozekhome, in a chat with Vanguard however dismissed the claim describing the state of affairs in the land as hopeless.

According to Ozekhome, the performance claims "must be in President Buhari's dream utopian world of fantasy, make-belief and Ali Baba's tales-by-the-moonlight. It is certainly not the Nigeria I live and work in. There exist grinding poverty, abject penury, dismay, hunger, thirst, helplessness and hopelessness."

The human rights activist further noted that compared with the successive administrations of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP; incumbent government fared poorly, stressing that it made Nigerians poorer than they were before 2015.