

# Boy with missing intestine dies at LASUTH

**L**AGOS **ADEBOLA** Akin-Bright, the 12-year-old boy with missing intestine in Lagos State, is dead. The mother, Abiodun

Deborah, disclosed this in a phone conversation with *Vanguard*, yesterday. It was gathered that Adebola died at the Lagos State

University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH. It will be recalled that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State visited

Adebola and pledged to cover his medical care and expenses.

This was after the boy's mother pleaded with the governor to probe the disappearance of her son's small intestines, which according to her, occurred while the boy was receiving treatment at LASUTH.

The hospital management, however, denied the allegation in a statement made on its profile on X, on August 12, 2023.

Earlier, the Lagos State House of Assembly had said that anyone who is found culpable in the case of the missing intestine of Adebola Akin-Bright would be prosecuted in due course.

## Rivers Police move to recover remains of slain DPO, kill 4 cultists

**3** By Davies Iheamnachor

**P**ORT HARCOURT—Police in Rivers State have killed four suspected kidnappers in Odemudie forest, Ahoada East Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The police had stormed the Odemudie forest in search of the remains of the Divisional Police Officer of Ahoada Division, Bako Angbashim, a Superintendent of Police, who was killed by cultists terrorizing Ahoada communities.

The state Commissioner of Police, Nwonyi Emeka, who disclosed, yesterday, in Port Harcourt, while addressing newsmen, said police operatives had stormed the Odemudie forest based on reliable information that the cultists that killed Angbashim were hiding in the area.

Emeka, who was reading out recent achievements of the command, noted that the cultists had engaged the police operatives in crossfire and that the four cultists were fatally wounded while many others escaped the scene.

He said: "On September 10, 2023 about 1030hrs, actionable intelligence revealed that a gang of notorious Iceland cultists, armed robbery suspects and kidnappers led by one Gift David Okpara Okpolonwo, aka 2-baba, who led his notorious gang to brutally murder SP Bako Angbashim, DPO Ahoada on September 8, 2023, were in their hideout at Odemudie Forest, Ahoada-East Local Government Area."

"Following the information, a combined team of Command Tactical Operatives and Area Commander Ahoada, stormed

the forest in an effort to arrest the notorious hoodlums and possible recovery of the corpse of the late officer.

"The hoodlums who were battle ready, immediately engaged the operatives in fierce gun battle, during which four of the notorious hoodlums, who are yet to be

## 520 Kano children suspected to have died of diphtheria outbreak— DG

By Bashir Bello

**K**ANO—Directpr General of Kano State Primary Healthcare Management Board, Dr. Mohammed Mahmoud, said, yesterday that about 520 children in the state were suspected to have died of diphtheria outbreak.

Mahmoud disclosed this during a media dialogue organised by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, for journalists from North-West states in Kano.

According to him, "There is data we generate through our disease surveillance and reporting system. And based on that report, this year, Kano has reported about 8,700 suspected cases of diphtheria and about 6,000 cases have been confirmed. And about 520 children are suspected to have died of from illness this year alone."

"We track this record on daily basis. We believe the record is much more than what we are getting because the reporting system is not as it is should be."

Mahmoud, who noted that the state currently accounts for 80 percent of the outbreak, said efforts were ongoing by the government at all levels and critical stakeholders to reverse the trend and to meet the December target to combat and bring the disease under control in the country.

Earlier in his remarks, UNICEF's Chief of Kano Field Office, Mr. Rahama Farah, said the disease had

identified, sustained fatal gunshot injuries while others escaped into the forest, three suspects were arrested and a locally made pistol recovered from them.

"Meanwhile, the four notorious suspected criminals, who sustained serious injuries were rushed to the UPTH for medical attention but were confirmed dead by the doctor on duty."

spread to 39 of 44 local government areas in the state with eight metropolitan LGAs as the worst hit. Farah who frowned at the worrisome situation, said the outbreak was a threat to child survival, health and the well-being of children, hence the need for support and collaboration to arrest the menace.

He said: "Recently, we have seen a surge in the number of diphtheria cases in Nigeria reported and Nigeria is currently facing an outbreak of diphtheria that need to be stopped and prevented."

"So far, the highest number of cases of diphtheria are reported from Kano State. For example, out of the 44 LGAs of Kano State, the diphtheria disease has spread to 39 LGAs."

"Since January 2023, Kano State reported over 5,800 cumulative cases of diphtheria in the state. Although, there was a decline in reported case in June, however, as of July, these diphtheria cases have been on the rise. As of last week, over 400 suspected cases with 11 deaths have been reported in Kano state."

"Eight LGAs are the most affected: They are Ungogo (2651), Dala (989), Fagge (943), Gwale (714), Kumbotso (713), Nassarawa (538), Kano Municipal (506) and Tarauni (269)."

He said the fund has delivered 1.2 million doses of vaccines to the Kano State government among others to support it for response to the Diphtheria outbreak.

## Court sentences public officer to life imprisonment for rape

By Favour Ulebor

**A**BUJA — AN Abuja High Court has sentenced a public officer, Dr. Abubakar Danraka, to life imprisonment for rape (sodomy) under section 1 of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, (VAPP ACT) of 2015.

Trial judge, Justice A. Akanbi-Yusuf handed the sentence, having found the convict guilty.

The convict, Abubakar, a former Chief Pharmacist of National Hospital, Abuja, and Senior Special Adviser (Technical) to the Director of the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development, was arrested on March 27, 2020, for defiling a minor.

Director-General of National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, Fatima Waziri-Azi, yesterday, hailed the judiciary for its doggedness in ensuring that justice was served.

Reacting to the judgment, she said: "I want to specially commend the judiciary for its sustained collaboration and support in the implementation of the VAPP law in the country, which has culminated in this landmark judgment. This is a victory for us as a country."

"In our bid to make Nigeria a violence free nation, in collaboration with all our esteemed partners and stakeholders, we will continue to scale our efforts in ensuring more convictions and less impunity."