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Driver killed as abducted Ekiti pupils, teachers regain freedom

Gov Oyebanji visits rescued pupils, teachers in hospital

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

ADO-EKITI—THE abducted pupils and teachers of Apostolic Faith Church Primary and Secondary School, Emure Ekiti, Ekiti State, have regained freedom from their kidnappers.

The pupils and their teachers numbering nine, who were taken away by gunmen from their bus alongside the bus driver on Emure-Eporo Road, last week Monday, regained freedom at 2a.m., yesterday.

Chairman of Emure Local Government Area of the state, Mr. Adebayo Oluwatosin, who confirmed this to newsmen in a telephone conversation, yesterday, said the driver of the school bus was killed while other eight regained their freedom.

Oluwatosin did not disclose how the victims were rescued.

Confirming the development, Ekiti State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Sunday Abutu said: "All victims were rescued today about 1:30a.m., but unfortunately, we lost the driver who was suspected killed by the abductors."

Oyebanji hails Tinubu, security agencies over release

Reacting to the release, Governor Biodun Oyebanji thanked President Bola Tinubu, the security agencies and Ekitikete for their support which led to the timely release of the kidnapped pupils of Apostolic Faith Nursery and Primary school, Emure Ekiti.

Oyebanji, in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media, Mr Yinka Oyebo, said: "Noting the traumatic experience of the children in the kidnappers' den, Governor Oyebanji has directed the Commissioner for Health and



Human Services, Dr. Oyebanji Filani to take the children to the state Teaching Hospital in Ado Ekiti for proper medical treatment and post trauma therapy."

...Visits rescued pupils, teachers in hospital

Meanwhile, the governor, also visited the rescued pupils and teachers at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, where they were receiving treatment.

The students and their teachers were brought to the hospital from Emure Ekiti by the Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr. Filani and some ministry officials, following the governor's directive shortly after their release.

Oyebanji, who arrived the hospital a few hours later, had brief interaction with each of the students and their teachers at the Accident and Emergency Ward of the hospital.

The governor was received by the Commissioner for Health and



Governor Oyebanji with some of the rescued pupils during his visit to the hospital, yesterday.

Human Services, Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Prof. Kayode Olabanji; and the lawmaker representing Emure constituency, Alhaja Mariam Ogunlade and some government officials.

Speaking with journalists shortly after the visit, the governor praised the resilience of the children and

expressed gratitude to God for their safe return.

He expressed condolences over the death of the bus driver of the abducted pupils, Mr Taiwo Olugbaye, who was reportedly killed by the kidnappers.

Troops rescue