



# The

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## Relief as Ese Oruru, mother arrive in Bayelsa home

From Karis Tsokar, Abuja

SOME minutes before 8:00 p.m. yesterday, the trauma of the family of Charles Oruru was almost over. They received their daughter, Ese, who was allegedly kidnapped by one Yunusa to Kano State. The

Bayelsa State Police Commissioner Peter Ogunyanwo confirmed the arrival of Ese and her mother in Bayelsa from Abuja.

However, an assistant inspector general (AIG), commissioner and two superintendents of police are among officers to face

Panel of inquiry set up to examine their role in the abduction of the 14-year-old Ese. Yunusa, from her mother's shop in Yenagoa Local Government of Bayelsa State on August 12, 2015 and taken to Kano State. The journey home was facilitated by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Solomon Arase who bought three flight tickets for the child- bride, her mother and a female po-

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### Uncertainty over economic summit

By Marcel Mbamalu, News Editor

FR from the enthusiasm with which the need for an emergency summit to revive the nation's ailing economy was canvassed by stakeholders, the plan may not be as promising as initially envisaged.

In fact, what has been thought of as a plan for an all-inclusive emergency economic summit by the President Muhammadu Buhari-led government could after all be an extended discussion on the economy by state governors and officials of the

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Senate begins probe into NDDC's 16-year stewardship

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Church does not want 'dirty money', says Pope



Kidnapped girl Ese Oruru's mother Rose Oruru (right) with police spokeswoman Bisi Kolawole at the police headquarters in Abuja...yesterday

## Lagos students' kidnappers demand N200 million ransom

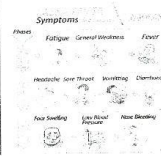
By Odita Sunday, Bertram Nwannekanma, Adeyemi Adepetun and Wole Oyebadde

AS parents and government anxiously await the return of the three female students who were kidnapped from Babing-

ton Macaulay Junior Secondary School in Ikorodu, Lagos, the abductors may have demanded a N200 million ransom. The abductors allegedly called the school authorities to demand the ran-

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Why Lassa fever may never be eradicated in Nigeria'



## NEWS

# Lagos vows to rescue abducted students

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confirmed the ransom development, adding that the Department of State Security (DSS) was already working to track the callers.

But the Lagos State Governor, Akinwunmi Ambode, has said that his government would spare no effort to ensure the safe return of the three female students who were kidnapped on Monday.

Meanwhile, to effectively check the rising cases of kidnapping and other criminal activities, the police are seeking to partner telecommunications firms operating in the country to be able to intercept the calls of any kidnapper within 48 hours of abduction.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Solomon Arase, appealed for the support of the telecoms operators under the aegis of the

Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) when he hosted them in Abuja.

According to ALTON's report on the meeting made available to journalists in Lagos, yesterday, Arase appealed to the telecommunications operators to help the police in the fight against kidnapers by making it possible for the security agents to intercept any kidnapper and other criminals within 48 hours of the crime.

"If the kidnapers know that they would be caught, the crime will reduce. The police authorities are ready to collaborate with ALTON and the industry as a whole," Arase stated.

On vandalism and incessant and illegal closure of telecommunication sites, Arase instructed all the state police commissioners that on no account

should any policeman be deployed or involved in the process of shutting down of telecoms infrastructure without a genuine court order and clearance from the office of the IGP. He said the police would continue to educate their operatives on how important telecoms infrastructures are to the security of the country.

ALTON, which was led by its Chairman, Gbenga Adebayo, to the meeting with the IGP, disclosed that Arase claimed to have a robust relationship with the telecoms operators since when he was the DIG in charge of intelligence.

While commending the efforts of the operators for services rendered, Arase mentioned that policing had passed the stage of physical points, where policemen were seen everywhere. "In Britain they have over 185,000 street cameras monitoring the activi-

ties of people in the country and it is easier to arrest any criminal," he said.

According to the IG, any operator that has issues of unlawful interference or shutting down of BTS sites without clearance from the force Headquarters should call directly to the IGP rapid response hotlines 0805 700 0001/2 "and within 30 minutes the situation will be brought under control."

Arase said he was passionate in bringing the Nigeria Police out of an analogue to digital platform, stressing that character certificate process had been made easy and every citizen of good behaviour should endeavour to process it online and submit it to the appropriate quarter for processing within 24 hours.

According to him, anywhere citizens go, "once you have it on your phones

and show the certificate whenever you are stopped for checking, you will be passed."

Adebayo, who said members of ALTON cut across the entire operating structure of the industry, including network operations, infrastructure as well as other critical value-added and support services, stressed that telecommunications development in Nigeria was playing an integral role in the march towards a greater country.

According to him, telecommunication services have greatly improved the quality of life as a people, from basic voice call, to internet services and to numerous value-added offers by its members.

"Despite the above progress made, we are still facing a number of environmentally related problems in particular, on the

issues of interference with the smooth operations of telecom services. These include closure of BTS sites without court order; taxes and levies, among others," he stated.

Adebayo said in the spirit of the recognition of the value of telecoms network elements and systems to the wellbeing of Nigeria, "we kindly request you to please direct your men to protect our infrastructure and not to be involved in tampering or preventing access to telecom sites. We are using this medium to pledge the support of the telecoms industry to you and the entire police."

"We pledge our loyalty and support for the government and people of Nigeria as an industry that is at the fore front of our national security and technological development."

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## 'Ese kept with Kano Sharia commission'

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lice escort to ensure they are easily transited to Bayelsa State via Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The mother was said to have come to Abuja by road the previous day to reclaim her child. The alleged abductor and other suspects in the saga are being held in police custody in Abuja.

Addressing journalists yesterday morning at the Force Headquarters in Abuja, the Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Olabisi Kolawole, flanked on her left by the mother of the abducted girl, Mrs. Rose Oruru, said Ese's abduction was reported since August last year, but police investigation into the matter towards effecting her release to her parents seemed compromised and was rather slack and below expectation due to what she called "some bureaucratic and complex intertwining factors" before the intervention of the police leadership.

She declared that consequently, the IGP had "ordered an in-house administrative enquiry designed to review the professional conduct of the officers responsible for the initial investigation of the case. Any officer indicted for professional dereliction will be firmly dealt with, accordingly."

Explaining the police

side of the story from the time it was first reported in Ekiika Police station in Yenagoa last year, Kolawole said a follow-up on information obtained from other suspected collaborators revealed that the girl was in the custody of the Kano State Sharia Commission, from where the Zone 1 AIG, commissioner of police, divisional police officer in Kura Local Government and other officers failed, despite supposed civil efforts within these months, to secure her release.

The leadership of the police was said to have condemned the seeming negligence or ineptitude on the side of the Kano Command and did not find it convincing that its officers could not facilitate the release of the allegedly abducted girl until the IGP had to step in, after the case was blown open to become a national issue.

Kolawole also told journalists that the teenager girl would be handed over to her parents as soon as she (Ese) was through with counseling for psychological and emotional stability by the gender and child protection unit, and medical examination by the relevant department.

According to her, the suspected girl-child abductor, Yunusa Dahiru (alias Yellow) is already taken into custody by the police

and would face criminal prosecution along with all the collaborators. "I can assure you that the abductor and all other actors in this abduction saga will be brought to deserved justice. This is the only way this nation can make a clear statement in unison that any individual that violates the sanctity of the rights of our children shall be dealt with."

The FPRO explained that due to respect for the privacy of the teenager and other protective rights of the girl and her family, she must not be exposed, hence the decision to shield her from camera and prying eyes.

Although the police spokesperson declined to answer questions from journalists, she allowed the mother to say something. Mrs. Oruru, speaking in Pidgin English, common among Nigerians in the Niger Delta region, said: "I thank all of you, the press people, all the Nigerian people in short, just work hard so that I can get my daughter back. Now I don get my daughter back, na to go house. I thank everybody, including the policemen, everybody wen e work so, now I don carry my pikin, I will go with am. God bless everybody."

The trio of Mrs. Oruru, Ese and a female police officer, who has been detailed to be by the side of the mother, had slept the pre-



Ese Oruru

vious night in an undisclosed hotel in Abuja. When confronted later, after the briefing, with rumour of the girl being pregnant, Kolawole denied knowledge of Ese's status in that regard, saying "I don't know about that, who ever reported that knows where they got the information from."

However, it was apparent something was amiss with Ese when she arrived at the Force Headquarters on Tuesday afternoon, as she wore her hijab, folding her hands around the abdomen as if she was con-

cealing a budge. Yesterday, she was not allowed to show her face, as even the mother was ushered into the small conference room on the 4th floor of Louis Edet House through the fire escape back door.

A source told *The Guardian* that "she is actually pregnant, but you know it is too sensitive for that information to go out now. Certain aspects of her rights must be protected, so the information is classified for now."

"That was one of the first tests that were conducted,

but you know the results cannot be immediately revealed because she's a teenager, her parents are expected to make decisions and speak for her. It is now their responsibility, the police have done their part," the source said.

Kolawole had said "a team from the medical department of the force is also extending medical attention to the girl and upon certifying her medical status and emotional state," she would be released to her parents. The police medical team checked the teenage girl as directed by the IGP.