The killing of a concerned son by his father in Delta State

Tribune Editorial Board February 20, 2026

THE reported horrifying killing, allegedly, of Miracle, a 23-year-old, by his own father in Osubi in Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State is more than a family dispute gone wrong. It is a devastating indictment of unchecked domestic violence. The incident is horrendous, appalling and unfortunate. The story is disturbing and causes trepidation at what the family institution has been turned into. Instead of being safe havens and comfort zones, many marriages are becoming gladiatorial arenas where pain is the gain and blood is the costly prize.

The victim's mother had allegedly been enduring marital pains from her husband, Isaleto. Regrettably, Miracle, her son, was made to pay the ultimate price when his father gruesomely murdered him. According to reports, Miracle tried to save his mother from years of gross spousal abuse by renting a separate apartment for her. He intervened where many would have turned away. That act of love, courage, and filial responsibility allegedly provoked a fatal response from the very man who should have been the family's shield. This led to a serious scuffle in the family during which Miracle's father stabbed his own son to death! Miracle lost his life trying to gain his mother's. The mother has now lost her son, and may now lose her abusive husband. What a colossal tragedy!

Sadly, domestic violence of different colours has become prevalent in the Nigerian society, and around the world, especially in recent times. While thousands of such occurrences can be traced and are documented, many more domestic abuses are suffered in silence. As stated by the World Health Organisation, "violence against women is a global public health problem of epidemic proportion, requiring urgent action." The organisation estimates that almost 30 percent "of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence." However, domestic violence is regrettable and cannot be reasonably justified. It is rampant but it must be curbed to avoid having a chaotic society. Domestic violence is not a "private matter". It is not a disciplinary tool. It is not a cultural right. It is a crime, and when it escalates to homicide, it becomes a collective moral failure. For too long, the Nigerian society has tolerated patterns of abuse under the guise of family authority, masculine ego, or household hierarchy. When violence becomes routine in a home, tragedy becomes only a matter of time.

Unchecked anger destroys more than its immediate target. It dismantles families, devastates futures, and leaves wounds that no court judgement can fully heal. In the current case, a household has been permanently fractured,

all because rage was allowed to override reason. We posit very clearly and unequivocally that: self-restraint is strength and that violence is weakness masquerading as power. This case also reignites urgent conversations about anger management, domestic abuse reporting mechanisms, and community-based mediation structures. Prevention is always better than prosecution. Families need accessible channels for counselling and intervention before disputes spiral beyond control. A son tried to protect his mother. He should be alive today.

If this tragedy teaches anything, it is this: violence in the home is never isolated. It spreads, it escalates, and if ignored, it eventually consumes everything in its path. Wives are to be loved, not abused. Husbands and wives should put in check whatever may trigger abusive behaviour: inordinate anger, personality disorder, economic and social stress, brutal jealousy, anti-social family background, unbridled verbal assault, or the misuse of drugs and alcohol. Married partners should have mutual love and respect for each other, and children should obey their parents. These are the real panaceas for solving marital problems at the home front. This tragedy also exposes a dangerous cultural reflex: the expectation that victims should endure quietly. In a communal society such as Nigeria, silence should never be the response to abuse. Extended families, community elders, faith leaders, and neighbours must not look away when warning signs appear. Intervention is not interference; it is responsibility. There is no honour in suffering in silence.

The government should put structures in place to help save lives where personal efforts are not working or are inadequate. There should be more avenues like civil society groups and non-governmental agencies saddled with this responsibility for sufferers to contact for help without receiving adversely judgemental reactions. No spouse or family member should have to suffer abuse in silence because there is no one to help. Since Nigeria is culturally a communal society, relatives should sincerely play safety roles in family issues. Family members should desist from taking extreme measures and think deeply about the consequences of their actions before they act.

We condemn very strongly the cruel act of the suspect in this case and posit strongly that the law should take its course on the matter in order to serve as a deterrent to others. Consequently, we call on the government, law enforcement authorities, and civil society groups to ensure that justice in respect of this case is neither delayed nor diluted. The full weight of the law must be applied where guilt is established. Accountability is not revenge; it is deterrence. When justice is visible and decisive, it sends a clear message that domestic violence carries consequences.

Happy families breed happy and peaceful societies. Only a peaceful society can have meaningful socio-economic growth. Everyone has a role to play in the all-round development of the Nigerian society. Nigeria must not normalise domestic brutality. It must confront it, condemn it, and correct it– firmly, legally, and collectively.