

# Man dies 13 days to his wedding

Stories by  
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## ... Juju priest, guard nabbed

**B**EFORE last week, Mr. Bassey Offem had informed friends and relations of his plan to tie the nuptial knot with her hearthrob. His invitation cards were distributed to his expected guests.

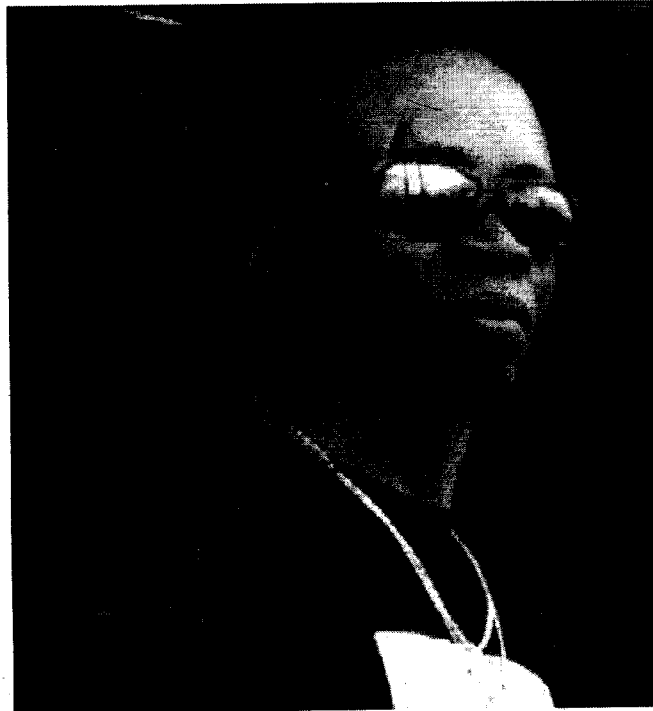
Indeed, the joy of organizing the event mostly occupied his mind. If there was anything he never envisaged, it was death. His mind was filled with how the wedding would be, how he would feed his wife and dance with her before the audience that could include his parents, colleagues and friends.

He thought of the guests, the bridal train, the testimonial cake, the dress and other things associated with the events not knowing that death was lurking somewhere for him. In fact the maxim that man proposes and God disposes became real in his life as Bassey died few days before his wedding day in a mysterious circumstances.

His wedding was tentatively fixed for December 30, this year. *Daily Champion* gathered that Bassey died a few minutes after spending the night with her wife-to-be. He was allegedly killed by ritualist who purportedly sacrificed his blood to a shrine, close to his house.

According to his wife-to-be, Miss Joy Eteng, "we were together in his house in Alakuko Ojokoro until about 2am when he excused himself to go to toilet at the back yard of the house, I waited for some minutes and I did not see him, I became worried after about an hour, I couldn't see him. There was nothing I could do at that hour. I raised an alarm and neighbours came out but we could not locate his whereabouts."

She said that the case was immediately reported to Alakuko police station. The lady who spoke amidst tears said the relation



Mr Bassey Offem

formed a search party led by a senior police officer.

She said the search team immediately swooped into action and discovered a trail of blood from the toilet

where Bassey had gone, to a shrine.

She noted that at the shrine there were some stains of blood fuelling speculations that something happened there.

According to her the blood looked like that of human being that was sprinkled on the shrine noting that the curious team later saw a fresh dug pit. The sight of the pit gave them hope and on digging the grave they found sac containing the mutilated body of Bassey.

She said that some charms were tied round his waist and two eyes plucked out.

In his own narration, the father of the deceased, Mr. Eugene, who arrived Lagos from Akwa Ibom on hearing the news said "my son was used for ritual, by the owner of the Shrine and his colleagues, I want to justice to prevail, no killer must be go unpunished, they have killed my son but Almighty God will punish

them."

He said that aside, from the charms found in the sac where his son was concealed, items such as coconut, candle and red cloth used in wrapping him were found.

However, a police source at Alakuko who described the act as unfortunate said the owner of the shrine and the shrine's security guard have been arrested in connection with the gruesome murder of the groom-to-be.

He noted that the ritualist hurriedly buried the deceased in a shallow grave, apparently for fear of been arrested.

The police said the juju priest, Mr. Obanla Useni and the security man would be prosecuted for murder.

Speaking with *Daily Champion* the juju priest said "I am the owner of the shrine but I don't know what happened to the man, the blood that stained the shrine was goat's blood, I do sprinkle goat's blood to the shrine, I think my security guard on duty should be questioned over the incident."

According to him, the

shrine was established about nine years ago to prevent alleged death of pregnant women and little children in the area.

"Before I set up the shrine, pregnant mothers and children were dying but since the shrine came into existence, it was stopped, I used goat's blood to appease my gods."

However, the investigating police officer said the suspects were arrested while celebrating the success they recorded with bottles of beer and cigarettes.

He said the suspects hurriedly buried the victim after removing some vital parts of the body.

A source from the deceased compound told our correspondent that the suspects were more than two, adding that the deceased came out when they were holding their fetish meeting and they grappled him and killed him immediately.

It should be recalled that a similar incident occurred last year at Ojota Lagos when a 28 year old man was killed in same manner by people suspected to be "Oro" cultists.

The death of the man sparked off crisis in the area forcing the state government to constitute a probe into the matter.

## ... Another gives up while urinating

**D**ETECTIVES from the Homicide Unit of State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba, Lagos have commenced investigations into the mysterious death of a commercial driver who allegedly dropped dead while urinating under the Ojota bridge, last weekend.

Similarly, the police have started probing the death of another man who was found dead in a stationary car along Third Mainland Bridge, Lagos.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the driver who died while urinating was attached to A.U. Motors that plies Lagos Benin routes.

A source at Ojota informed our reporter that the driver, Mr. Peter Osabuarhen came to the park in the morning of that fateful day, adding that his bus, with registration number AA 804SED was loading passengers before he (driver) went to ease himself under the bridge.

He added that when the bus was fully loaded, passengers became worried which led his colleagues in the park to search for their colleague. He was said to have been dead before he was found.

Also an adult male corpse was found inside a stationary Mercedes Benz car with registration AC942 KRD on third Mainland Bridge.

As at press time, the identities of the corpse was not known but a source said the deceased was going to Ikorodu area before the incident.

He said there was nothing to suggest that the deceased was killed by ritualist as no part of his body was removed. Confirming the two incidents, Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Bode Ojajuni said police are investigating the deaths.

On the death of Osabuarhen, Ojajuni a Superintendent of Police

(SP) said no foul play was suspected, noting that his corpse has been deposited in a public morgue for autopsy.

He added that the autopsy result would guide the police in its investigation to determine what actually went wrong.

Also speaking on the incident at third Mainland bridge, Ojajuni said the corpse has since been removed to the mortuary for autopsy.

According to him, police have started investigation on the matter to ascertain how the incident occurred.

## Slain police boss for burial

**T**HE Nigeria Police authorities have concluded arrangements to commit to earth, the remains of the slain CP Felix Oteka, the Commissioner of Police in charge Police Mobile Force who died in the line of duty, on Tuesday, December 5, 2006.

Programme of event released by the Police shows that there will be an elaborate Christian wake keep at the Commissioner Oteka's residence, Police cantonment Area 11 Abuja, on Wednesday, December 20, 2006. The following

day, there will be service of songs at his Onitsha residence, plot 330 Eba layout opposite Army Barracks gate Onitsha.

A statement signed by Force Public Relations Officer, Mr. Haz Iwendi, a Commissioner of Police said a concelebrated funeral mass and police ceremonial burial parade will be conducted at the Christ the King Parish Onitsha to commit to mother earth the body of Commissioner of Police Oteka.



CP Haz Iwendi, FPPRO

## 2 pupils, 8 others crushed

**T**WO primary school pupils who were returning from school and eight others were crushed in two separate auto crashes in Lagos on Monday.

The pupils whose identities were given as Akorede Sodik and Okafor Ifeanyichukwu were said to have been hit by a speeding car with registration No. XB 348 Awka along Oshodi Express road.

*Daily Champion* learnt that the pupil were returning from undisclosed school at Ijeshatedo when the vehicle ran over them.

An eyewitness account said the children were crossing the road when the driver crushed them. They died instantly.

Elsewhere in Ketu along Badagry Express road, four people were feared dead in a ghastly motor accident. *Daily Champion* learnt that the Mercedes Benz the deceased were travelling to Ijanikin ran into a stationary truck parked along the road.

The driver was said to have been escaping from a robbery scene along the road when he veered off the road, hitting the truck.

An eyewitness, a student of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Ijanikin said the driver was on a high speed when he suddenly noticed that other drivers were scampering for safety as a result of robbery operation in the area.

According to our sources, the driver lost control and ran into the stationary vehicle, killing the four occupants in the car.

Confirming the incident, Police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said the two primary school children resided at No. 9 Isatedo, Isolo and 13 Adekunle Street, Isolo respectively. Ojajuni said their corpses were deposited in the mortuary for autopsy.

He warned drivers at this yuletide against over speeding and adherence to road signs and rules.