

Death of a 'good woman'

- Ex-Anambra Commissioner murdered
- Son is chief suspect

Many agree that she was a good woman. To the inmates of an orphanage she founded, she was a mother in a million. To the numerous hands that work in her businesses, she was a damn good boss. And in public circles, she was seen as a successful woman; a commissioner in Mbadinuju's Anambra State. Now Mrs Uzo Obi-Okoli is gone, murdered by unknown assailants who stormed her bedroom. And the chief suspect: her son, writes **NWANOSIKE ONU**



The late Mrs. Obi-Okoli

"When I received the signal, I mobilised my men and officers at the homicide department and I led them to the place. The security man at the gate allowed us in and we met one of the sons of the late woman who led us to the actual scene of the crime," Katsina said, adding: "I saw her in a stiff condition and in a pool of her own blood. I managed the scene of crime and conducted a step-by-step observation with a view to finding any clue that will help us establish the identity of the attackers. I was able to conduct some machinery investigation that assisted me in drawing closer to the identity of the suspect. "I picked other clues and we are still awaiting the Forensic Department of the Force Headquarters CID Annex. I asked of the co-occupants to know the bedroom of the son, and on observation, I also recovered a very important clue that led us to classify the woman's son as the principal suspect."

Also, he disclosed that the suspect absconded immediately, after the incident with the mother's 500 SEL Mercedes Benz car, adding that the boy had been arrested in Lagos by a team of detectives from the anti-homicide department.

The police are waiting for them to bring the suspect back to Awka.

Mrs Obi-Okoli's

husband,

Chief Anselem Obi-Okoli, the chairman of Bilante and Bewilders Construction Company, has visited Awka to see things for himself.

He has gone back to Abuja, the base of his business.

The late Uzo Obi-Okoli was the founder of Mother Theresa's Foundation and the multi-million Naira Tender Love Orphanage home, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), which was commissioned recently by the Senate President, Chief Ken Nnamani, in Awka.

She was the chairman of the Nigerian Mineral Water Resources Limited, (NMWRL), makers of Limca, Sport Cola drinks. The late Mrs Obi-Okoli was an environmentalist, beautifying the city of Awka, the capital city since she left office as commissioner.

A two-star Paul Harris fellow.

The late Mrs Obi-Okoli was a devout Christian.

She had seven children. She was from Nibo in Awka South Local Government Area and married to Chief Obi in Awka town.

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RESIDENTS of Awka, Anambra State, were still in shock yesterday over the murder of the former Commissioner for Women Affairs, Chief (Mrs.) Uzo Obi-Okoli.

She was shot dead inside her bedroom in her home at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Temporary Site in Awka.

The police are holding her son, Chuchu, believe can help them unravel the thorny puzzle of her murder.

Mrs Obi-Okoli, who served in the administration of Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju, was also a former Special Adviser on Energy and Petroleum.

It was gathered that the son, who just returned from overseas at the weekend, came to Awka, their country-home and drove out in his mother's Mercedes Benz 500 SEL in the evening.

He returned shortly without the guards checking the car.

Sources in the house said they suspected that the boy had gone to pick some of his friends suspected to have participated in the murder on Sunday morning and kept them inside the tinted glass vehicle without anybody noticing

what was going on since it was late in the night.

According to one of the family members who spoke with *The Comet* at their massive home, the suspects shot Mrs Obi-Okoli many times, leaving her in her pool of blood on the floor of her upstairs bedroom.

The source said no other member of the family, except the aged husband of Mrs Obi-Okoli and the security man at the gate were in the house when the

incident happened.

As at the time of filing this report yesterday, the motive of the murder had not been established.

Confirming the incident, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department of the state police command, Mr. Musa Mohammed Katsina, said they were aware of the incident.

He said he got a signal from the Police B Division.