

Police say son confessed to murder of ex-commissioner

He was full of hope when leaving Nigeria to secure a good future overseas. He had great dreams – of a blissful and exciting life. But, like a house of cards, the dream crashed. The young man return home in frustration. A desperate attempt to rebuild his life is not working. The culprit, he is convinced, is his mother. Her punishment? Death.

This is the result of the police's construction of what many have driven the son of a former Anambra State Commissioner the police suspected to have killed her.

THE police in Anambra yesterday disclosed that Mr Chuka Obi-Okoli has allegedly confessed to killing his mother, Chief (Mrs) Uzo Obi-Okoli.

Chuka is the second son of Mrs Obi-Okoli, former Commissioner for Women Affairs in Anambra State, among several accomplishments.

News of the woman's murder, widely reported in the media on Wednesday, shocked the nation which yearned for answers.

The Acting Commissioner of Police (CP) for Anambra State, Mr John Haruna, who gave reporters an update on investigation into the murder, said 27-year-old Chuka allegedly confessed to matricide.

Haruna said: "One Chuka Okoli, believed to be the second son of the deceased ex-commissioner, was arrested in Lagos two days ago and brought down last night (Wednesday night) about 8.30

From Nwanosike Onu, Awka

p.m. here. He has been interrogated.

"Actually, he made a confessional statement giving details of what he did that day and up to the time he came and shot and killed his mother. As for what might have transpired between him and his mother or other family members before that unfortunate episode, we cannot say for certain. Parental care from his own perspective might be different from what we understand."

However, according to police sources, the suspect complained of not receiving the level of care he expected since his childhood from some unnamed persons around him.

Again, it was gathered that death of Mrs Obi-Okoli, was not insane as being speculated rather that he fell into bad times during his sojourn in the United States (US) which ended last year.



• The late Mrs Obi-Okoli

that dastardly act, and if that is done, we now look into how he came in contact with the gun, we will re-visit his alibi."

On where the suspect left the vehicle, Haruna said: "Of course, he has told us where it is but you know until we recover it, is still security information, but hopefully, we must recover it before the next few hours."

Shockwaves reverberated through Awka, the Anambra state capital, when news of Mrs Obi-Okoli's murder was broken.

Sources said she was shot dead right inside her bedroom in her residence at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Temporary site in the capital.

The son who police immediately suspected of complicity in the murder, was said to have driven out in his mother's Mercedes 500 SEL (popularly known as The Beast and retained in the evening.

The guards in the compound did not check the car as Chuka drove in and parked the vehicle in the premises.

A family member told *The Comet* that the late Mrs Obi-Okoli was shot at after Chuka entered her bedroom.

She was later discovered in a pool of her own blood.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Mr Musa Mohammed Katsina, said he received a signal on the incident from the state command's 'b' Division.

According to him, he quietly mobilized homicide detectives and stormed the home of the deceased.

He said: "The security man at the gate allowed us in and we met one of the crime.

"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 use establish the identity of the attackers.

"I was able to conduct some machinery investigation that assisted me in drawing close to the identity of the suspect... I also recovered a very important clue that led us to classify the woman's son as the principal suspect."

But, the suspect was reported by other members of the family as having fled towards Lagos, driving the deceased's Mercedes car.

A renowned philanthropist and successful administrator and businessman, the late Mrs Obi-Okoli owned the Lagos Hilton Hotel, off Allen Avenue, was chairman, Nigerian Mineral Waters Limited (makers of Limca, Sport Cola drinks) and ran the acclaimed Tender Love Orphanage, Awka.

Furthermore, it was revealed that the tinted Mercedes Benz 500 series car he drove after the death of Mrs Obi-Okoli was abandoned at Auch Street in Benin, Edo State, in a mechanic's workshop.

Investigations also showed that the suspect may have been well taken care of by his relations and is alleged to have failed to finish his secondary education in Nigeria before he travelled abroad.

Police sources revealed that the statement the principal suspect made to the police was that he shot and killed his mother because the former Commissioner kept reminding him of his past.

Haruna said available evidence ruled out complicity by any assisting parties in the murder.

He said: "There was no indication that the boy worked in concert with anybody in the killing of the mother through the firearm used in executing