

How, why I killed my son – Father

KASIE ABONE

PAUL Chukwuma, the 46-year old man who strangled his first and only son, 22 year old Emmanuel Chukwuma, to death recently has explained why he committed the dastardly act. The shocking and blood chilling act was committed with the collaboration of Mr Chukwuma's wife, Caroline, and his three daughters, Patience, Eucharia and Jeoma.

Late Emmanuel according to his parents and siblings was until his death, a black sheep of the family and a torn on their flesh whose ungodly act had severely brought shame and disgrace to the family.

But was Emmanuel's unruly behaviour enough for his family to have despatched him to untimely grave?

Mr Chukwuma, a native of Akpugo in Enugu State who is cooling off with his entire family at State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Pant, Yaba blamed the shocking incident on the devil. Speaking exclusively to *Daily Champion*, Mr Chukwuma recounted how devil helped him to plant the seed that finally claimed the life of his only son.

Mr Chukwuma who relocated to Lagos, from Enugu in 2003 after his late son stole large sum of money from his business leading to the collapse of

the said business claimed he wanted to discipline his son for stealing his sister's N18,000 worth necklace and for other acts of irresponsibility.

"Unfortunately that day Sunday July 9, 2006 he returned very late in the night despite all the warnings that he should not stay out late say still 12 (midnight) and 1 a.m. Meanwhile, before that day, because of his dubious character, he took necklace of his junior sister and made away with it. We asked him several times, he did not say anything. So, because of the way he has been behaving before. He has been going out and returning late. About two times people inside the market brought him about 3 am in the night.

They said they saw him going inside the market. They ask him wetin you want buy. He say he dey look for ciga to buy. Moreover, for a long time he refused to attend any church activity. That is where the whole issue started. *He no dey go church. He no dey attend any church activity. Na only to smoke bad smoke that even if he comes inside we have to take his clothes outside because of the type of odour that comes from it. Unfortunately on that fateful day, in fact, I no dey wear wrist watch because*

of him. Anyone I buy *I no dey* know when he will take it. So all these he has been doing. So, this particular day I told members of my family that the necklace he took, we will tie him down, he will stay there let him tell us the reason why he has refused to behave well. To the extent that this boy will go and open toilet (bathroom) to peep at women who are bathing.

Landlord called me, *everybody were complaining I dey beg them. Make them bear with me* I don't know how satan entered this boy parading him all that way. That very day we decided to tie him down. I said he will remain in my room for complete three days. He cannot go out unless he explains why he has been doing this all the while despite the warnings. Even, *I don call army beat am several times no way.* I reported him to police after they have warned him not to return late again, no way. So, we tied the legs and the hands. But unfortunately, I don't know when I tied the neck but my intention was to tie only the legs and hands and leave him there. After that I left and went to bathe. *But before I bathe come back I see that he fainted.* I loose all the things rope see he was not shaking his body. *I called my wife make she help me.* She was crying instead of helping

me to take him to hospital. As we were preparing, police came and carried him to the hospital but later came to the police station to confirm that he was dead."

Asked whether he regrets killing his son despite his bad behaviour.

Mr Chukwuma exclaimed "Ha, I was planting, I don't know when satan started helping me to plant. That was what happened to me. I wanted to caution him. It is not only today that I have been beating him or trying to discourage him. As I was tying him, if I tell you it was the devil who tied the neck you will not believe even though I used my hands. Responding to another questioned, he lamented "My sister, I will tell you I am a confused man as of now. Since then I have *not got myself normal because I think up, I think down.* I cannot even sleep

Corroborating her father's account, 18-year old Patience Chukwuma, the owner of the necklace Emmanuel stole that triggered off the ugly incident said "My brother has been behaving so badly. Not only that he used to behave abnormal. If he goes out, he will not come in time. Even my father has reported him to Oke-Odo Police station. They took his name and gave him instruction *not to be doing like that but he never heard.* Things in our house, he will take them and sell them. So on Sunday in the

to the police again, I will shun any crime and live as an obedient boy which I was known, my brigade commander has come, even my brother too, help me beg police to show mercy on me' he pleaded.

Similarly, Lagos State police have arrested one Idajili Olizebi for posing as a police officer at Centre for Management Development Magodo. Olizebi who dressed as a police constable as at the time he was arrested claimed that he was serving at Ikeja division of the command.

Daily Champion learnt that the Divisional Police Officer of the place he claimed to be serving was immediately contacted and he denied knowing the fake policeman.

Confirming the incident, Lagos State Police spokesmen Mr Olubode Ojajuni said the fake policeman would soon be charged to court.



•Policemen on duty

morning I wanted to go to church, I started looking for my necklace. My daddy then said that he saw the necklace with him on Saturday. I now say *ah*, my brother where is my necklace. My brother then said that if I talk to him he was going to beat the hell out of me and everybody that talked to him. Even my mummy asked him where is the necklace, he told my mummy that she is a stupid woman, that she should not call his name because of that nonsense necklace. My mum now decided that we should tie his hands and legs when he returns.

So, in the midnight, around 12.30 am when he returned, my daddy then came inside our room to call us. He said we should tie his hands and legs. I now said to my daddy that we should leave him, by the grace of God that if I have another money that I am going to buy another necklace. My daddy said now that the necklace is not even the main thing but the disgrace he used to give him outside. So, my daddy said let's tie him so that he can stay at a place for a least two or three days before we can leave him to stop the way he is walking here and there. Immediately we tied his legs, I and my sister went out. It was my mummy and my daddy left. But the boy could not bring out his hand my daddy then said he should bring his hands but he did not want to bring his hand. My daddy now tied all his body. We did not notice that he tied him including his neck. So, when my mummy came in, by then we went out to buy something, my mummy said he should loose his neck. The neck is dangerous. She did not say you should tie him including the neck, only his hands and the legs. So my daddy now loosed the neck. I did not

know whether my daddy know's he tied the neck. But nobody intended to kill him or harm him or to do him anything, that is why we didn't take him to police. Because if we take him to police they are going to beat him again. Immediately my daddy loosed him, not up to ten minutes, he now gave up. People in our yard came and told my dad the boy has died, but my daddy said he has not died. He was very weak.

According to us, in our belief we know that we don't have any intention to kill our brother because he is the only brother we have and he is the eldest among us."

Asked whether her brother committed any other atrocities aside stealing things from the house and selling them off, Patience answered. "Nobody knows whether he has been stealing. According to my daddy, they have brought him home around 3 am in the night more than five times. If it is not MOPOL people or security people in the street, it will be army that will bring him. The other time they bring him around, it was around the midnight. They said he stole something from the market. They now said my daddy is responsible. They tortured by daddy that day. They beat him. Many many times he has been doing many things.

The last child of the family, 15-year old Jeoma Chukwuma who recently joined her family from Enugu where she was a house help corroborated the account of her father and sister.

The news of the said death of Emmanuel Chukwuma in the hands of his family last week no doubt sent shock waves in the spines of many a people who read the blood

Confession of fake Army officer

LUKKEY ABAWURU

THE maxim that 'a thousand days are for the thief but one day for the house owner came into play recently when a 22-year-old Senior Secondary School (SSS2) man, Mr Mose Bassey, who had been posing as an army officer was arrested in Lagos.

Bassey, a student of Federal Science of Technical College, Yaba was arrested at Oganduran, in Ikorodu local government area of the state while wearing the state while wearing army camouflage uniform with the kitz to match.

The second in the family of four, told *Daily Champion* that devil pushed him into the crime.

According to him "I faked army officer to avoid paying transport fares to drivers while travelling within Lagos metropolis, especially when I have no money in my pocket, forgive me,

I won't do it again" he pleaded.

Explaining how he got the uniform, Bassey who hails from Ibinu Ibom local government area of Akwa Ibom State said "I belong to a cadet organization in my school, an arm of 68 reverend hospital barrack, Yaba, the cadet gave us uniform which we wear inside the school, we were not allowed to wear it outside the school premises but on that day I wore it to Ikorodu because I had no transport fare and I had no body to borrow from, so I decided to wear the khaki to avoid paying transport fares, I was unfortunate, I was arrested."

Bassey noted "As I reached Ikorodu, I stopped a Oganduran, waiting for bus to convey me back to Yaba, one private car

stopped by my side and asked me to enter, I entered and thanked him. On the way he asked me where I was serving after introducing himself as army officer, I told him the truth and he drove me to a nearby army barracks where I was detained."

Speaking with *Daily Champion* in chains at Ikeja, the student said "I was surprised that the army man could detain me after begging him severally to show mercy on me, I was detained for three days but they did not handcuff me while in army cell, it was here in the police that I was handcuffed."

Bassey revealed to *Daily Champion* that his school teachers have visited him in the cell and have begged the police on his behalf.

"I won't do anything that would bring me