

# •Family of 13 dies

CHUKWUDI ACHIFE, *Enugu*  
and BALA NASIR, *Dutse*

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**I**T was wailing and weeping in Dutse, Jigawa State weekend, as a family of 13 perished in a ghastly motor accident at Tsaida Village, along Gaya-Dutse road, Kano State.

The tragic event which involved a Peugeot station wagon car belonging to the Jigawa State Housing Authority which collided with a truck en route Maiduguri-Lagos.

The truck conveying cattles ran over the car after the collision instantly crushing to death all the thirteen people on board, according to eyewitness.

The family members, residents of Takur quarters in Dutse, Jigawa State were said to be returning from Zaria where they attended a graduation ceremony when they met their death.

According to eyewitness, both vehicles were on high speed when the Peugeot driver wanted to overtake another truck at a sharp bend.

However, unknown to him another truck was coming from opposite direction also on high speed, but when both realised, it was too late for them to control the vehicles, they rammed into each other resulting in the death of all the passengers on board the Peugeot car.

Meanwhile, when the news of the sad end of the family

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# Xmas tragedies

trickled into Dutse, some of their neighbours wouldn't want to believe it.

But when their corpses were taken to the family house, it was all cries and wailings in the neighbourhood with friends, relatives and colleagues to all the deceased pouring in to witness the nightmare.

It took hours before the uproar could be controlled in the neighbourhood and the Emir of Dutse, Alhaji Nuhu Muhammadu Sanusi-led the teeming sympathizers at the deceased resident to offer the final rites to the extinct family as provided in the Islamic injunctions.

In Enugu, three children, a medical doctor and three others were among those who lost their lives in a string of tragedies and violent deaths that punctuated Christmas celebrations in separate incidents within the Enugu metropolis.

In one of the incidents, three children belonging to two senior police officers were found dead on Saturday in the boot of a vehicle parked inside the premises of the Mobile Police Headquarters at Agbani Road, Enugu. Two of the deceased children were said to belong to the Commander of the Unit but how they got into the boot and what actually happened to them remains a mystery.

When Daily Champion visited the scene on Saturday, a crowd of wailing sympathisers were seen in the premises but none of the parents of the deceased whose ages ranged from 6-8 and whose remains had by then been removed to an undisclosed mortuary, could be reached.

Efforts to reach the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mike Abattam also proved abortive but a senior police officer at the state police headquarters confirmed the report and said the incident was being investigated.

He said the police was not ruling out the possibility that

the children may have been murdered but said no concrete evidence to that effect could be obtained until an autopsy is carried out on the bodies.

Also at the weekend, armed youths suspected to be members of an outlawed secret cult in the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) struck at the Artisan quarters area of the city, shooting a lady, her mother and a medical doctor to death.

There were scanty information on the identities of the deceased but *Daily Champion* learnt that the suspected cultists stormed the residence of the lady, a student of the state owned university on Friday and shot her from close range.

It was gathered that the screams of the wounded lady simply called "Baby" attracted her mother, Mrs. Oduche and other passersby to the scene. The lady was immediately

rushed to an undisclosed hospital in Enugu metropolis for treatment, the source added.

Apparently afraid that the victim might reveal her attackers, the hoodlum trailed her to the hospital and shot the lady, her mother and the doctor attending to her in the hospital to death.

In another development, a mechanic living at Aninwede Street, Ogui New Layout, was shot and killed by unknown persons in Enugu on Friday.

Informed sources said that the hoodlums were suspected to be hired assassins, as the criminals did not take away any property or money from their victim after carrying out their wicked act.

Efforts to reach the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mike Abattam for comment were not successful as he was said to have travelled out of the Coal City on an official assignment.

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## Agbroko

with the father's crusade of a better Nigeria.

Speaking with *Daily Champion* at their no 2 Idowu Street, Ire-Akari, Lagos, Runo said: "My father loved truth and stood by it, he was thinking of how to improve the nation, he did not compromise on any issue, he criticized bribery, corruption, bad governance etc but, look at how he was murdered, he had several opportunities to travel abroad but he refused because he wanted to contribute to the betterment of the nation, I won't step in his shoes."

The 20-year old son said: "I was disappointed and devastated when I heard the news that my own dad who I was waiting for to come home was killed."

Also speaking, Agbroko's daughter, Miss Ruona, a twin sister to Runo said: "My father

wanted a change in this country. He wanted to see democracy practised with total obedience to the rule of law, I am not happy that my father's project of change could not be actualized before his death, I miss my father and the worst thing is that I didn't hear his last word, I didn't watch him on hospital bed. He died instantly."

Ruona, however, said I knew that he would die because of his profession and his love for truth but I did not expect it now, I am devastated and confused."

She also blamed the security situation in the country, arguing that if there were enough security gadgets to detect crimes, the rate would have reduced.

"Security is a failure, people get killed everyday, we don't have security gadgets to detect