

Valentine Day tragedy: **Gunmen kill lawyer, shoot wife**

CAJETAN MMUTA, Asaba

IT was a tragic Valentine Day February 14 for a couple as a three-man gang assassinated a legal practitioner, Mr. Emmanuel Okwuasaba in his residence at Asaba, Delta State capital.

He was in the company of his wife, when he was shot dead at his home on the Direct Labour Agency (DLA) Road Asaba by assassins at large.

However, a man said to have had a running battle with the late lawyer over a land deal is now in the net of the state police command for alleged murder.

According to the police in the state, the lawyer met his untimely death at about 10 pm shortly after a security man attached to the house (names withheld) opened the entrance gate for his boss and the wife to drive out to unknown place.

They were accosted by two of the gun men who muttered some inaudible words to the man before they pumped several bullets direct on his left side of his chest at close range while the wife was shot on lap.

Daily Champion gathered that the assailants lurked round the deceased residence and had waited for him to return from

the day's work when suddenly he emerged in his Honda car from the house with his heartthrob at the peak of the night's Valentine's Day celebration in the city unsuspecting of the cold hands of death.

He was immediately rushed to a private hospital where he was confirmed dead while the widow is presently receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba.

Nothing was removed from the car as the gunmen disappeared into the dark night.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), who confirmed the incident to our correspondent said that the late lawyer had before his death complained to his wife and family members about a death threat he received from the arrested man whose name police refused to disclose.

"The man's wife said the husband told her about a death threat from one man who said he would deal with him over land matter. The man had also before his death called a family meeting over the same issue. This led to the arrest of the man," Okuwobi said, noting that the case is being investigated

by The State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), "A" division Asaba.

Meanwhile, a councillor in Ika North East local government area in the state Hon. Eluro Friday has been arrested by police for stabbing his colleague, Hon. Emmanuel Obiazikwor with a broken bottle.

The lawmaker in the council was nabbed on January 29, following report on the incident to the police over a heated argument that led to a fight when the state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Festus Okubor called the councillors for a peace parley between them and the suspended council boss Chief Smart Buzugbe at his private residence on

Efezomor Street, Boji-Boji Owa in the council.

The PPRO who also confirmed the matter said Hon Eluro had during the fight with Hon. Obiazikwor used the broken bottle to inflict serious wounds on his colleague.

The victim was rushed to a clinic for treatment adding that the command was investigating the case.