

Gunmen kill Nnamani

CHINEDU WOSU, Port
Harcourt

UNKNOWN gunmen yesterday killed a senior special assistant to the caretaker committee chairman of Tai local government area of Rivers

State, Mr. Soda Nnamani.

Sources close to the deceased said Soda was killed in Botom in Ogoni community where he was undertaking official assignments on the Independence Day Anniversary celebration for Tai council.

gov shuns celebrations

House of Assembly, Alhaji Ya'u Umar Gwajo-Gwajo was represented by his deputy Alhaji Bilyaminu Rimi while some of the state commissioners and special advisers attended the ceremony.

In a related development, Chief Elechi, in an address to mark the celebration and 11th anniversary of the creation of Ebonyi State at the Abakaliki Township Stadium also extended similar gestures to another 31 persons serving various jail terms including life imprisonment.

He said he was by the action exercising his constitutional powers on the Prerogative of Mercy, having accepted the recommendations of the State Advisory Council on the Prerogative of mercy; "Only

God in his infinite wisdom and knowledge can punish appropriately and adequately, the presumed guilt of man", he said.

He said the council meticulously examined the cases of "some of our unfortunate brothers and sisters" that had been languishing in various prisons either on death row or serving life imprisonment, stressing that some of the issues considered before arriving on the number included; length of stay in prison, the age of the prisoner, his health condition, circumstances of the particular incident that led to his conviction, remorse shown by the prisoner, report on the prisoner by the prison officials, Human Rights Commission and other organizations.

Eyewitnesses said that suspected assassins numbering over five persons drove to where the deceased was staying before opening fire on him, until he gave up the ghost.

Daily Champion gathered that the assailants were reported to have escaped, unhurt.

The caretaker committee chairman, Mr. Etho Mba quoted by a broadcast medium in Rivers State as accusing the former council personnel of Tai of being behind the killing of his aide.

Daily Champion learnt that no arrest has been made on the killing of Mr. Nnamani in the area.

Contacted, Commissioner of Police Rivers state Mr. Felix Ogbaudu while confirming the killing said no arrest has been made but insisted that the command has deployed mobile policemen to the scene of the killing to maintain peace.

He said that the command is combat ready to fish out those behind the killing of the late Nnamani in the state.

Police nab vigilante over murder

CHUKWUDI ACHIFE, Enugu

THE Police in Enugu State have arrested five members of a vigilante group in Obollo-Afor, Udenu local government of the state, for alleged murder of a 16-year-old boy, Mr. Ikechukwu Ogbu.

Ogbu was said to have been arrested and detained along with others by members of the vigilante group led by one Mr. Obetta Benjamin (aka son of man) following a misunderstanding over a cell phone.

The police said their investigations indicated that Ogbu may have been shot by members of the vigilante

group for failing to provide a carton of beer and N1,000 as bail condition.

It was gathered that after arresting Ogbu and four other boys, the vigilante group detained them, and later pronounced them guilty.

Ogbu who could not meet the bail condition had pleaded for time when the patron of the vigilante group, Mr. Obetta, was said to have picked a pump action gun and ordered one of the boys to shoot the deceased on the leg which he did.

However, the action of the vigilante group was said to have attracted a crowd who protested against the development.

Obetta later went and reported the matter to the police alleging that Ogbu and the others were armed robbery suspects. Ogbu later died in police detention as a result of the gun shot wound and was deposited at Prince Eze Hospital Mortuary.

It was gathered that the vigilante group assembled some home made pistols and guns to prove that Ogbu and the other boys were thieves.

But the story changed when the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Crime ordered investigation into the matter and discovered that Ogbu was shot by the group.