

Killed!

Abducted Edo commissioner found dead in hotel room

VINCENT ADEKOYE, Benin

BENIN, Edo State capital was thrown into grief yesterday as the commissioner for information and orientation, Mr. Calus Enoma, earlier declared missing by the government, was found dead in a hotel room.

Enoma, who would have been 42 on April 22, was declared missing by the state government on Sunday, 48 hours after he left his home in Benin for a party.

However, yesterday, the state governor, Prof. Oserheimen Osunbor, his deputy, Lucky Imasuen and the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in

charge of Zone 5, Mr. Udom Ekpo Udom were among those said to have found Enoma's remains in a room at Precious Palm Royal Hotel located opposite the University of Benin main campus, Ugbowo.

There was a deep cut on Enoma's forehead when his corpse was removed from the bed in the hotel room with blood stain, an indication that the deceased may have struggled with his killers before they overpowered him.

Governor Osunbor and Mr.

Continues on page 6



• Barr. Calus Enoma

Killed

out the late commissioner alive. Sadly, at about noon yesterday, the news filtered round the town that he was found dead.

Speaking with newsmen after the normal security procedures, the AIG who described the murder of the commissioner as the worst form of crime, said the command will get the killers.

"It is true that the commissioner for information and orientation in Edo state, came into this hotel last Friday and he was not seen till this morning when the room where he checked into was broke into and was found dead.

"It is too early to know the cause of his death, but we have come here now in company of the governor, the Commissioner of Police and director of the State Security Services (SSS) with pathology and forensic expert to take finger print and other necessary investigations so that we can go deep and know the cause of his death. I can assure you that if it was caused by an individual, we shall get the person arrested.

"He actually checked into this hotel by himself. He checked in last Friday at about 10.00pm by himself. No arrest yet". The AIG said.

Speaking to newsmen, the owner of the hotel, Jude Nosagie, confirmed the police report that the late Commissioner actually checked into the hotel last Friday night. He said management of the hotel was shocked about the incident.

In a statement announcing

the death of the late commissioner yesterday, the state government alleged that the Commissioner was lured out of his house Friday night via a telephone call from an unknown caller.

The statement said, "The Edo state government regrets to announce the sudden death of the state commissioner for Information and orientation Barrister Calus Enoma.

"Barrister Enoma was this morning found dead in a hotel room in the state capital having left his residence at about 10.00pm on Friday March 28, 2008, after receiving a telephone call from an unidentified caller.

"The death of the information commissioner is shocking, sad and painful and a great loss to the government and the people of Edo state" the statement said.

As at the time of filing this report, it was gathered that the sad news of Enomah's death has not been broken to his aged father while his wife was yet to arrive Benin from her overseas trip.

Atmosphere in all government ministries and parastatals was generally cold especially in his office where the workers were seen weeping profusely.

The late Mr. Enoma was born on the 22nd April 1966. He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1990.

He had worked as Solicitors to many companies before going into politics. He was the Assistant Legal Adviser to the PDP in Edo state until his appointment as the state Commissioner for Information and Orientation in 2007.

•Continued from Page 1

investment in the power sector by the immediate past administration.

The committee was in the state as part of its oversight functions to probe as well as conduct public hearings on the money spent on the power projects by the last administration in the country.

"We are in Akwa Ibom as part of our mandate since January this year, following a resolution by the house to do a thorough investigation and also involve in public hearing to ascertain the huge sum of money plunged into the power sector if actually such funds were used for that purpose", said Hon. Elumelu.

Speaking during a courtesy call on the state governor, Obong Godswill Akpabio at Government House in Uyo, the state capital Hon. Elumelu explained that since the commencement of the committee's assignment, several people including former ministers, directors, from the relevant ministries and contractors have testified.

He said that although there were stunning revelations during the investigations, he assured that the committee would not jump into hasty conclusion without verifying the projects and facts on the ground to know if actually such funds alleged to have been spent on the projects actually measured up.

One of such projects, *Daily Champion* recalls is the ongoing Ibom Power (IPP) at Ikot Abasi local government area of the state, initiated by former governor, (Obong) Victor Attah five years ago.

that would make the PDP an agenda-setting and election-winning machine" Members of