

Police kill man, leave pregnant wife unconscious

By MANSUR OLADUNJOYE

POLICE in Lagos state yesterday shot and killed a middle-aged man (names withheld) during the monthly environmental sanitation exercise, for allegedly refusing to stop at a check point.

The man, who was killed at Orelope in Egbeda Local Development Area Council (LCDA) of the state, was said to be in the company of his pregnant wife and a neighbour whom they picked on their way to the hospital in the area.

According to a witness, the man was driving his Nissan jeep with registration number VF 54 EPE but took the ongoing sanitation exercise during which the traffic was usually light, for granted by indulging in high speed. He was conveying wife to the hospital in time, only to be flagged down at Orelope bus stop by the Police.

Our reporter further gathered that the Police, on seeing that the man refused to stop, shot at him and the luxurious vehicle tumbled, thus leading to the immediate death of the driver while his pregnant wife and the neighbour who became unconscious, were said to have been immediately rushed to an undisclosed private hospital.

Consequently, our correspondent reliably learnt that the youths in the area that saw what they described as overzealousness of the policemen, mobilised themselves and threatened to manhandle them but for the timely intervention of the traditional ruler of Egbeda, Oba Samson Balogun, who appealed for calm with a promise to liaise with the state

government.

He too like the youths condemned in strong terms, the attitude of the policemen which he described as unwarranted and undeserving.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Frank Mba, appealed to our reporter for more time to properly investigate the issue, with a promise to get back to him later.

As at the time of filing this report, the police image maker was yet to honour his words.

INEC denies candidate

INDEPENDENT National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said that contrary to speculations, it has never excluded any candidate qualified to contest the governorship re-run election in Bayelsa state or any other state it has conducted election.

The commission stated this while reacting to the allegation by group, Charity for Change Campaign Organisation, to the effect that the Peoples Progressive Alliance (PPA) gubernatorial candidate, Mrs. Charity Vedelago, was unlawfully excluded by INEC in the last re-run governorship election in Bayelsa state.

A statement by the Legal Services Department of INEC Abuja, which was made available to *Sunday Champion* in Lagos, described the group's allegation as false, spurious and libelous.

According to the statement, the PPA and its candidates, contrary to the claim of the group, fully participated in the said