

Lagos police kill sea pirate

LUKKEY ABAWURU

MARINE Police, Ikoyi, Lagos have killed a sea pirate, suspected to have murdered unnamed ship captain in the state.

The deceased, identified as Oluwa Dramola Odoka was killed on Monday during a gun duel with the police in Lagos-Badagry water ways.

However, two persons who were in the canoe with Odoka were arrested by the police during the gun duel.

Daily Champion gathered that Odoka was fingered in the murder of the unnamed captain of a fishing company sometime last year.

He was also said to have threatened to kill another staff of a fishing company in the state who purportedly reported the matter to the police.

Police said Odoka was also undergoing prosecution in a Lagos High Court before he got a bail and escaped.

A police source from Marine Police Station said Odoka pushed the boat driver into the sea and took over the boat in a bit to escape.

The leader of the police team, Mr. Emmanuel Emu said: "We got a distress call that sea pirates were in the sea and we rushed to the place. On getting to the sea, we saw a canoe and we stopped it. The people inside the boat complied with us and during a search, we saw a bag containing gun and charms. On sensing danger, Odoka walked near the boat driver and pushed him into the river and drove off" he said.

He said the police shot into the air to scare the boat driver but he refused to stop. Emu, who is a Deputy Superintended of Police (DSP) said

Police's bullet got the suspect as he was driving the boat and killed him instantly.

Confirming the incident Lagos Police Public Relation

GAT handover: Omotoba in secret meeting with FAAN, union leaders

ANTHONY OMOH

AHEAD of today's proposed strike by unions in the aviation sector. Aviation Minister, Mr. Babatunde Omotoba yesterday sneaked into Lagos to hold talks with the management of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) respectively.

Apart from NUATE, other unions threatening a showdown include the Air Transport Senior Staff Services of Nigeria (ATSSSAN), THE Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC).

The meeting, *Daily Champion* gathered, may not be unconnected to the handover of the General Aviation Terminal (GAT) to Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited (BASL).

However, unions in the industry have said there was no going back on the strike as they did not reach any agreement with the minister during the secret talks.

The closed door meeting with FAAN, which began about 10 am yesterday ended at 1pm and the minister with his convoy, immediately drove to the headquarters of NUATE with FAAN Managing Director, Mr. Richard Aisuebeogun for a parley.

After the closed door meeting with the union leaders, the minister came out but, refused to respond to any question from journalists.

Meanwhile, the National

President of NUATE, Comrade Safiyanu Mohammed insisted that the unions would not relent in their struggle until the GAT is returned to FAAN, adding that it would call out its members on a nationwide strike as from today (Wednesday).

Mohammed said it would paralyze aviation activities throughout the country, stressing that any aircraft that flies into the Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos will be doing so at its own peril.

He also alleged that the union had confirmed that BASL was not on the list of Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) as one of its registered companies and wondered why an unregistered company would be given the right to own and operate the GAT.

He said the court judgment obtained by BASL was declarative and not executory, stressing that if it wanted to own and manage the terminal, it should return to the court for executory judgment.

He denied any agreement with the minister on the handover of the GAT to BASL, maintaining that the union would decide after its meeting on what to do today on the issue but emphasised that its earlier stance still remains.

He said, "I want to tell you that there was no agreement with the minister and we told him that we are going to finalise our strategies and agree on the way out of this crisis. The

Officer, Mr. Frank Mba said the police have been looking for Odoka over serial cases of piracy in the waterways.

strike is still valid for tomorrow (Wednesday). The fact again is that BASL is not registered with CAC. We want to confirm that the company is not registered with the CAC.

"One thing I want Nigerians to know is that the court judgment we have between Bi-Courtney and FAAN is a declarative one, if Bi-Courtney wants to takeover GAT, it should go to the same court and seek for executory judgment that will handover the building to them formally.

He accused the minister of acting out a written script and said the unions would not leave him unchallenged especially with the experience of the defunct national carrier, Nigeria Airways still fresh in the minds of the people.

He said for the GAT to be handed over to BASL, there must be sincerity on the part of the government, due process must be followed and the government must obey the rule of law.

He said the union had informed all its international affiliation bodies like the World Federation of Transport Union (WFTU) and the International Transport Federation (ITF) on the issue.

On the planned concession of the four airports in the country, he said the unions have not been carried along and would not hesitate to put the government on its toes on the issue when the time is right.