

Missing man found dead, without tongue, testis

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THE people of Umunahu Uratta in the Owerri North Local Government Area of Imo State was thrown into anger and panic following the sudden disappearance of a native of the area over 10 weeks ago and the discovery of a dead body suspected to be the missing man's body near the village stream.

The deceased, Mr. Egonu Oparari according to village sources was neither a thief nor a never-do-well rather a man who took delight in socialising with others in sharing drinks.

Daily champion reporter who visited the area discovered that the dead man who was over sixty years and unmarried; on the day he got missing, left with a polythene bag and his absence from the people was a source of concern to his kinsmen who vowed to know his where about.

Consequently, the people set up a search party and also kept their eyes and ears open in case of an announcement from the electronic media.

Investigations revealed that there has never been any case of kidnapping or abduction in the area, and incidence of murder was not rife in the area.

Daily champion gathered that a few children went to fetch water from the nearby stream and incidentally sighted a dead body near the stream, fear gripped them and they ran back to report the matter to their elders.

Further investigation from close sources revealed that

the elders in company of the deceased's brother Mr. Leo Oparari rushed to the scene to discover it was the dead body of Egonu Oparari and his killers had removed his testis, tongue, jaw and other parts living him naked.

It was uncertain as at press time weather the people had buried him or not rather a close source revealed that the matter has been reported to the police.

When the Daily champion visited the Owerri North Police

Station at Toronto junction for confirmation, the DPO was away on official duty but the DCO said the matter was not reported to them, suggesting that the people must have been reported it to the Owerri, State CID.

Lions club, TCF host World Sight Day in owerri

EMEKA IHIEGBULEM, Orlu

OWERRI Heartland City Lions Club in Zone 10B, Region 10, District 404A Nigeria in collaboration with Tulsai Chanrai Foundation (TCF) Thursday celebrated the World Sight Day in Owerri, capital of Imo State, with a view of reducing eye-associated defects in the state.

Speaking at the ceremony captioned, "Equal Access to Care", which was held at the General Hospital, Umuguma in Owerri West LGA of the state, the TCF Patient's Caretaker, Mr. A.C. Onyenwenyi disclosed that approximately 314 million people worldwide live with low vision and blindness.

He said out of the above mentioned figure, 45million people are blind while 269 million have low vision adding that 145 million people's low vision is due to uncorrected refractive errors i.e near and far sightedness otherwise called astigmatism.

Mr. Onyenwenyi also mentioned that women face a greater risk of vision loss than men as he unveiled that two-third of the blind people are women and girls.

He further revealed that 70 per cent of blind people live in low income countries; but

that 80 percent of blindness is avoidable i.e readily treatable or preventable.

Said Onyenwenyi, "Restoration of sight and blindness prevent in strategies are among the most cost effective interventions in health care. Infectious caused of blindness are decreasing as a result of public health interventions and socio-economic development. Ageing populations and lifestyles changes one that chronic blinding conditions such as diabetic retinopathy are projected to rise exponentially".

Earlier in his address, President of Owerri Heartland City Lions Club, Lion Murphy Onuwa, noted that the days celebration came in line with the Club's service day with the United Nations.

He disclosed that the Club launched its fist sight programme in 1990 to attack aggressively the rising tide of blindness in the globe.

"Motivated by the more by the reports of the United Nations that the number of blind people would be doubled in the next 25 years and their subsequent call for support to eradicate this ugly threats, Lions Club Int'l again launched sight fist phase II in 2005 at the international convention held in Hong Kong",

he said.

He further noted that the sight first programme gave the club recognition in the United Nation Assembly, but said that the club's "Vision for All" has not yet been realized. He attributed it to ageing of the world population and changing pattern or new types of eye disease in the present era.

The Lion President also said that cataract disease is the major cause of blindness insisting that more children suffer from blindness or low vision.

"Diabetes and Glaucoma silently stalk the vision of millions, who may not even know that they are at risk. River blindness and trachoma, which once took the sight of million have been pushed to the brink of elimination by the efforts of Lions Club Int'l, but the final steps must be taken to ensure total elimination," he said.

Disclosing that the club is made up of 1.4million members in over 190 countries of the world, he commended TCF, State Government and Management of the General Hospital Umuguma for furthering in the campaign of eradication blindness in the state.

Also, in her speech, Mrs. Agnes Adaeze Ngumezi of Humanitarian Social Services Initiative (HSSI) noted that sight