30

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Lagos SARS loses 3 officers in 3 weeks

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The Special Anti-Anti Robbery Squad (SARS), Lagos State Command, has lost three of its officers in less than three weeks.

The latest loss occurred on Friday when a newly promoted senior operative of the unit, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Christopher Akpan, slumped and died in his office.

Our correspondent learnt that Akpan, described by his colleagues as a crack detective, had on the day of his demise led junior officials out to arrest some suspected criminals.

About a week ago, a Police Inspector, identified as Nlong and said to be a personal assistant to the officer-in-charge of the Lagos SARS, reportedly died in a road accident in Okene, Kogi State.

Nlong was heading back to Lagos in a Toyota Hiace van driven by the driver of a senior officer of the unit after attending a child christening ceremony in Jos, Plateau State, when the accident happened. Nlong was said to have died on the spot, while the driver is still receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

A police source told our correspondent, "Akpan's death is still a shock to me. He came back from an operation with his boys and went into his office to prepare for another operation. His boys, after waiting for him for some time went to knock on his door but there was no response.

"They thought he had gone out and called his mobile phone and it rang but he did not pick the call. They forced his door open and saw him sitting on his chair but couldn't talk or move. They rushed him to a hospital where he was confirmed dead."

Another operative, identified simply as Inspector Tunde, was said to have died three weeks ago after a brief illness and is yet to be buried. Con Cust (NCS Com Wac othe show som smu; caps rice in La

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