

METRO

Death of an oil worker, far from the rigs

Emekeme's decomposing body was found in a bush near the Air Force Base in Port Harcourt on August 11. His hands were tied behind his back

WHO killed **Sylvester** Emekeme, the Public Relations and Community Liaison Officer of an oil drilling company, based in Port Harcourt, Rivers State?

This is the puzzle the Rivers State Police Command has not been able to solve; two months after his gruesome murder.

Emekeme's decomposing body was found in a bush near the Air Force Base in Port Harcourt on August 11. His hands were tied behind his back including his legs. He laid at his gory resting place in the bush for three days.

Investigation revealed that his killers might have tortured him before dealing a mortal blow to his head.

A staff of the drilling company disclosed that the deceased closed from work on August 9, and was heading for his home when his colleague in the same office pleaded with him to drop him at a point in Port Harcourt.

It was gathered that another driver in the company accompanied them on the trip, which took a detour to a drinking spot.

But Emekeme did not get home. The Drilling Superintendent, who rode with him the previous day, was contacted

on phone by the company's management the next day. He told the security department that Emekeme was somewhere in Ughelli, Delta State, attending a burial ceremony of a friend. But he was wrong. At this time, Emekeme had been killed and his body abandoned in the bush.

Further inquiry about the missing man led investigators to the driver who rode with the deceased on the day he disappeared.

The driver told employees of the company's security department that he saw Emekeme's car neatly parked along the road, close to the Air Force Base.

The Company then contacted the Police and Air Force Base over the incident and also made

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) has kicked off a private sector-driven partnership campaign tagged: "Operation Reduce Road Accident." This is in furtherance to efforts made so far by the commission to reduce incessant accidents on our roads, particularly at this time of the so-called ember months.

The Assistant Corps



• Emekeme

From Chido Okafor, Warri
broadcast of a missing

person.
Two days after, Air Force personnel

informed the Police and management of the company of the discovery of a decomposing corpse at

a nearby bush.

The strangled body of Emekeme, with hands and legs tied, was

found. Worms were already feasting on him.

The Police are still investigating the mystery behind the killing and are said to be working on several clues.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the Rivers Police Command, Mrs. Ireja Barasua confirmed the incident and revealed that three persons including the Drilling Superintendent of the popular indigenous company had been arrested.

Barasua said the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had taken over the case for proper investigation.

Asked whether the oil worker's death may be linked to the spate of kidnap of oil workers in the state, she said she was not sure. Barasua however labelled the militants operating in the creeks of the state hardened criminals who want popularity by calling themselves militants.

She warned that the activities of the militants amount to criminal offence, stressing that the long arm of the law would catch up with them soon.

FRSC partners private sector to curb accidents

Marshal (Training), Dr. Ralph Osayi who disclosed this in a statement, said the private sector support has become very imperative to sustain the efforts of the commission in educating Nigerian adults and children on road consciousness, proper usage, safety rules and precautions.

According to him, this campaign is a long and

expensive battle for life, hence the need for partnership with socially responsible corporate citizens that can help in reducing the carnage on our roads.

Sensitisation and enlightenment campaign package design include: Road Safety Watch (ongoing safety campaign), Multimedia campaign and road safety tips for children.

Richland Communica-

tion Limited, a Marketing Communications Consultant has been approved by the commission to co-ordinate and execute this campaign.

According to Mr. Iken-na Modébelu, Managing Director of Richland Communication Limited, this project promises to be very successful, as most Nigerian corporate bodies and corporate citizens would love to iden-

tify with it as a support in reducing road accidents on our roads.

"To this end, FRSC is using this opportunity to invite corporate bodies to identify with this laudable initiative by sponsoring any of the

opportunities available and thereby helping to educate Nigerians on safety measures," he said.

The campaign is expected to last from now till end of March 2007.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INITIATIVES FOR THE PROMOTION