

Police Arrests Pastor Over Suspected Ritual Killing

From: Terhemba Daka,
Abuja

THE Police in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have arrested the overseer of The City of God Tabernacle, Pastor Godfrey Udofia in connection with the death of a resident of Gbagarape, a squatter settlement in the Nyanya district of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

The Pastor, who was arrested in his house after a violent protest which followed the Tuesday, April 21, early

ABUJA

morning killing of Mr Torban Aseer in circumstances suspected to be ritual killing, is being detained at the Nyanya Police station.

Udofia, whom the Police suspect of colluding with a water vendor suspected to be a cultist, is being held along with other suspects.

The Guardian gathered that trouble started when residents in the area woke up in the early hours of Tuesday to discover the lifeless body of Aseer, a commercial

motorcycle rider, in an uncompleted building adjacent the borehole belonging to the runaway suspected killer.

Aseer, said to be in his late 20s, also doubled as a manager for the water vendor, in whose house he also shared a room with two other workers (both at large) at the business.

Furious at the discovery of the body, as well as blood-stained naira notes suspected to be ritual money at the uncompleted building, which was also used as prayer room by the fleeing sus-

pects, the irate youths in the area swooped on the house and set the water equipment and house on fire.

The youths alleged that the fleeing vendor, who was also a member of the Tabernacle, used the borehole water business as a decoy to carry out ritual activities.

The protesting youths were also said to have beaten Udofia to a state of stupor over allegation that he was an associate of the fleeing suspect, and an accomplice in the murder of Aseer, who hails from Vandekya in Benue State.

A Police source told *The Guardian* that the late Aseer had previously reportedly complained of a ritual attack by his roommates.

The FCT Police Public Relations Officer, Ahmed Musa confirmed the development.

Ex-Minister Defends Role In Rural Telephony Contract

From: Nkechi
Onyedika, Abuja

Former Minister of Communications, Dr Obafermi Anibaba has defended his role in the

NATIONAL

contract covering the entire country, had to be divided into three phases due to funding constraints.

the contract agreement forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for payment.

He said the 3rd phase would be concluded by the present administra-