

NEWS

Cocaine Ingestion Kills Bus Driver

By Wole Shadare

DRUG ingestion as a means to evading arrest turned suicidal for a 34-year-old commercial bus driver in Lagos when a wrap ruptured.

The deceased, Edwin Sunny Ozoani, allegedly, was said to have returned from Brazil on board a South African Airline flight at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA).

During screening, he tested positive to drug ingestion and was placed on observation.

He excreted 10 wraps of substances that tested positive for cocaine weighing 180 grammes. According to the anti-narcotic body, while still under observation, he com-

plained of stomach pain and was rushed to the hospital where he eventually died. A post-mortem examination revealed that his death was due to a wrap of cocaine that ruptured in his stomach.

Worried by the sudden demise of the drug suspect coupled with other Nigerians on death row in foreign countries over drug offences, the Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Ahmadu Giade, reiterated call for stiffer penalties for drug trafficking. "Until we get the penalty right," Giade said, "drug trafficking will remain attractive. Every case of drug trafficking involving Type-

NDLEA Seeks Stiffer Penalty For Offenders

NATIONAL

A drugs, like cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, runs into several millions of naira. We must therefore wield the big stick against offenders to serve as deterrent. I am optimistic that adherence to stringent bail conditions and minimum of a 15-year jail term will turn the tide".

Giade described the death as pathetic: "This death is sad and painful. The deceased would have been alive to face trial and ultimately given opportunity to learn from his mistakes. I urge members of the public to shun drug trafficking and make qual-

ity choices that will enable them maximise their destinies," the NDLEA boss stated.

NDLEA Airport Commander, Hamza Umar, added that family members of the deceased have applied for the corpse to be released to them after the autopsy.

Following the sad incident, we made contact with the family members. They also witnessed the operation where the ruptured wrap of cocaine that killed their son was recovered from his stomach. The Agency has also granted their request for the corpse to be released to them," Hamza explained.

Preliminary investigation

showed that the deceased travelled to Brazil in search of greener pastures on March 3, 2012.

He was said to have told investigators that the drug deal was not in his plan when he left the country.

His words: "I am a bus driver and I came to Lagos in 2000. I was able to save N850,000 that I used in travelling to Brazil in search of better jobs. The condition I met in Brazil was unbearable. I had language problem and also lacked work permit. I suffered until a Brazilian lured me into the drug deal as a last resort because I was almost stranded."

Danjuma Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Get UNIJOS Award

From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos

THE University of Jos has presented its Distinguished Philanthropic Award to the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the T.Y. Danjuma Foundation for contributions to humanity. The award formed part of activities marking the 25th convocation of the institution, which held May 8-12, 2012.

Chancellor of the University, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adeyemo Adejuge Aladesanmi III, who presided over the ceremony, expressed gratitude to government at all levels and development partners such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Hayward Mafuyai, read the acceptance speech of the President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Mr. Vartan Gregorian, who was represented by Dr. Patricia Lar, chairperson of Jos Carnegie Partnership Committee (JCPC).

Oritsejafor, Aniagwu, React To Martins' Appointment As Lagos Archbishop

By Chris Irekamba

LAGOS

THE President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor and other clerics have reacted to the recent appointment of Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins as new Catholic Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Lagos. Oritsejafor prayed God to grant him special grace, "because the task ahead is enormous, especially as he's stepping into very mighty shoes at a time when the nation is passing through serious security challenges. I pray that God will endue him with enough wisdom and power

Gunmen Kill Two, Injure 10-year-old

From Njadvava Musa, Damaturu

TWO gunmen attacked the Potiskum Timber Market in Yobe State yesterday at about 1.30pm.

The attack led to the death of two persons, while a 10-year-old child sustained thigh injury as a result of a

YOBE

stray bullet.

Potiskum is located 100 kilometres west of Damaturu, the state capital.

An eyewitness, Yakubu Usman, said the attackers in traditional gowns walked to

the timber shed, pulled out their guns and shot two workers.

"After killing these people, they fired several shots into the air and fled in an unmarked Volkswagen Golf car. I cannot identify the people that were killed because

everyone fled for cover," said Usman.

Members of the Joint Task Force (JTF), he added, took the wounded child, to a hospital for treatment.

Confirming the incident in Damaturu, police spokesman, Gbadegeshin

Toyin, said: "We are yet to get an official report on the Potiskum Timber Market attack and killings. As soon as the Area Commander sends in his report, I will brief you on casualties and measures we are taking to protect life and property in the state."

