

NEWS.

Lawyer's Death: Coroner Inquest Adjourns Sitting Till December 23

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Category: National Hits: 15 • Print



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THE Coroner Inquest panel looking into the mysterious gun shooting and death of an Orlu-based legal practitioner, Appolos Nduka Anyile, on October has adjourned sitting for further hearing on the incident till December 23.

The late Anyile, 50, before his death, was the General Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Orlu branch, Imo State. He was found dead in the early hours of October 16, in his own pool of blood, in his bedroom at his ancestral home in Umuebile, Okporo Orlu, by his mother and other relations.

Following the unclear circumstances surrounding his death, the Imo State Governor, Chief Rochas Okorocha, acting on Section 3 (2) of the laws of the Eastern Nigeria Vol/CAP/ 29 of 1963, instituted a Coroner Inquest that is chaired by Chuzzy Attama.

The terms of reference included to unravel the circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased with an initial mandate to conclude within one week.

On December 11, the maiden sitting took place while Attama decried the alleged non-presence of the police at the sitting.

At the sitting on Thursday, December 18, on the case number CC/ INQUEST/1/14, Police Inspector Ishmael Chima Arikibe, during cross examination by the Chief State Counsel, Mrs. Fustina N. Ojinka, and the Chairman of Orlu NBA, standing in for the family of the deceased, Chief Celestine Okechukwu Anyiam, disclosed that the deceased, according to his mother, was always fond of releasing gun shots of his double barrel between 8 and 9 pm before retiring to bed, adding that on that occasion, the family took it that way.

He disclosed that it was about 8.30 a.m., on October 16, that they attempted to ascertain his presence when they made the discovery.

Arikibe said that the initial investigation commenced when the Police Divisional Crime Officer, DCO, and Divisional Police Officer, DPO, were contacted to the scene of the incident, disclosing that they discovered that it was likely a case of alleged suicide, because the opening wound and expended cartridge did not expand, meaning he was shot at a close range.

He also said that the family members, led by the mother, told him that they did not suspect any assassination, but suicide. He said a chief of the area, Benard Amaechi, was also at the scene when the door was opened with a stick from the inside, adding that there was not case of forceful opening through the window or door or ceiling.

The cop said the gun shots and blood stains smashed on the walls, adding that the police did not bother to engage the services of a finger print experts with initial spraying of powdered (Ultra –seen), because they could not find any sign of print.

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