

# Court Sentences Wife To Death For Killing Husband In Rivers

From Obinna Nwaoku, Port Harcourt

**A**RIVERS State High Court sitting in Port Harcourt has convicted and sentenced a woman identified as Telma Bestman to death by hanging for killing her husband, Bestman Wagbara in Rumuolumeni in Obio-Akpor Local Council of the state. The court also sentenced one Wilson Okelekele for conspiring with Telma for the murder of Wagbara at his resi-

dence, along the Saint John axis of Rumuolumeni - Ogbogoro Link Road, Obio-Akpor Local Council of Rivers State, in February 2020. Delivering judgment, yesterday, the trial judge, Justice Augusta Kingsley-Chukwu, held that the prosecuting counsel was able to prove the case of conspiracy and murder beyond reasonable doubt.

The court ruled that evidence presented to it by the

prosecution proved that the accused wife, actually conspired with Okelekele to kill the deceased, Wagbara.

The judge stated that the exhibits revealed that the accused woman opened the back door of the house leading to the main entrance of her husband's room where her accomplice, a security guard, committed the act Justice Kingsley-Chukwu after considering all exhibits and arguments from both parties,

sentenced the defendants to death, declaring that the duo be hanged at their necks until they are confirmed dead.

Speaking to journalists outside the courtroom, the Chief State Counsel, Rivers State Ministry of Justice, Precious Ordu welcomed the judgment, describing it as well-served and served.

Ordu said, "We are happy, they can't eat their cake and have it, they can't just kill an innocent man, a full-fledged man and expect to go Scott-free the law doesn't allow that.

"We are happy that the judgment went this way, we expected it and by God's grace we have also gotten it today."

On his part, Prince Ibojiekere Amadi, counsel for Wilson Okelekele, expressed his dissatisfaction over the judgment adding that he would appeal the judgment.

"Naturally, I will appeal the judgment because we are not satisfied with the judgment of the court.

"We will study the judgment of the court, then we will do the needful, we are not satisfied with the judgment."



Director General (DG), National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Dr. Temitope Ilori (fourth left) receiving congratulatory letter from Youth leader, Association of Positive Youth in Nigeria (APYIN), Aaron Sunday (fourth right) and others during APYIN's courtesy visit to the DG, NACA in Abuja... yesterday

## Sickle Cell: Rotary, ANPA, CMG Donate TCD Machines To Foundation

By Josephine Amaole

**T**HE National Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sickle Cell Foundation, Nigeria, Dr. Annette Akinsete, has called on government at all levels in the country to prioritise sickle cell condition in Nigeria by stipulating guidelines and policies that can assist the management of the disease due to the prevalent number

### • Urge Govt To Prioritise Disease

of persons who live with it. Akinsete estimated that out of about 150,000 babies born every year with sickle cell in Nigeria, a 100,000 die before celebrating their fifth birthday.

Speaking during the official presentation of Transcranial Doppler (TCD) machines to the foundation by the Rotary

Club of Lekki Phase 1 in partnership with the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) and the Covenant Medical Group Global Foundation in Lagos, recently, Akinsete said: "Nigeria is the sickle cell capital of the whole world; Nigeria has highest burden of sickle cell disorder. And so we should

really be at the forefront in the fight."

She said Nigeria ought to be at the forefront of sickle cell initiatives and research efforts but it hasn't been the case.

"The developments that we have today in the sickle cell space came from the research that has taken place in America. And yet, America doesn't have up to 100 carriers.