

Police Kill Man, 23, As Student Drowns

By Chukwujekwu Ilozue

Reporter, Onitsha

FAMILY of Chinedu Oraegbunam, former student of Tansian University, Oba, Idemili South Council into mourning during the Easter celebration as the youngman drowned in a swimming pool at Rojenny Tourist Village, Oba, on Good Friday.

The previous day, police killed a 23-year-old trader, Nnamdi Igbokwe, in Onitsha for reasons yet to be made public.

Oraegbunam, who was a 200 level student of Computer Science of the university before he was said to have deferred his admission, had visited his friends at the institution, who were living off campus at the Rojenny

Tourist Village on Thursday evening.

According to a source, his friends could not accommodate him and as it was very late in the night Oraegbunam begged a security man at the Tourist Village to allow him stay with him till morning.

On Friday, continued the source, instead of Oraegbunam going home, he went for swimming after which he got dressed. But again, instead of going home, he dived into the pool again, probably to pick up his handset that fell into the deepest part of the pool.

"Unfortunately, after diving he could not swim, which made the lifeguard at the pool to dive in on a rescue mission."

It was in the process of try-

ing to revive him and searching for a vehicle to take him to a nearby hospital that Oraegbunam, who hailed from Umunya in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State, died."

At Onitsha, Nnamdi's friend, Sunday, who was carrying him on motorbike on the night of the incident, said they had to branch off at to Chukwura Street to avoid harassment from the police, which he said had become a regular occurrence in Onitsha in recent months.

As they branched off, they parked the motorbike at the street, but one of the policemen, an Inspector whose named was not immediately known, came to take away the parked bike.

But Nnamdi, who hailed

from Atta in Ikeduru Local Government of Imo State, and a father of two, queried the policeman for taking away the stationary bike. At this juncture there was exchange of words between Nnamdi and the policeman, who shot him direct on the skull, shattering his head and the brain gushed out.

Patriarch of the Igbokwes, 75-year-old Edmund Igbokwe, who addressed reporters with his son, called on the Inspector General of Police, Ogbonnaya Onovo, to investigate the matter and ensure that justice was done.

He lamented that the late son had his last child four months ago, wondering what becomes of the son's wife and two kids "especially now that things are very hard".