

Man killed by alleged lover's son in Enugu

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UMULUMGBE town is a sleepy community in Udi Local Government area of Enugu State.

Attention was however drawn to the community recently by the murder of a 26-year-old man, Kanayo Ugwuode on Saturday, May 5.

Kanayo died as a result of injuries sustained from machete cuts allegedly inflicted on him by one Celestine Agbaenyi of Okomeje village, Umulumgbe.

Earlier, Celestine led a group of boys to a drinking joint at Amaodara Umulumgbe to beat up Kanayo. Kanayo died while trying to retaliate the beating he received from Celestine and his group.

Incidentally, Celestine's mother, Mrs. Kate Agbaenyi reported the matter to the police on Sunday.

Our sources disclosed that Mrs. Agbaenyi of Okomeje village Umulumgbe had on Sunday reported



•Mohammed Abubakar, IGP

that at about 7. 30 pm on Saturday, her son Celestine Agbaenyi and others beat up one Kanayo Ugwuode at a drinking spot at Ama-

odara Umulumgbe.

The woman told the police that the same night, Kanayo launched a revenge attack in her com-

pound while she was not around, but was overpowered by her son (Celestine) who gave him machete cuts on both his hands and head.

Kanayo was said to have died on the spot.

Saturday Independent sources further revealed that Kate Agbaenyi was suspecting that her husband, Mr. Joseph Agbaenyi must have instigated her son to unleash the first attack on Kanayo over accusation that she was having an affair with the deceased. Mrs. Agbaenyi believes that the suspicion of her extra-marital affair with Kanayo was based on mere suspicion by her husband.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Enugu State Command, Ebenezer Amaraizu, confirmed this report in a telephone interview with *Saturday Independent*.

"Mrs. Kate Agbaenyi reported this matter to 9th Mile Police Station. The woman's son, Celestine

Agbaenyi and husband, Mr. Joseph Agbaenyi have been arrested by the police in connection with the murder of one Kanayo Ugwuode. The matter is before the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) here in Enugu" Amaraizu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police said.

Amaraizu added that after the investigation, the suspects in the case would be charged to court.

Following the development, the whole community looked deserted when journalists visited as people hid inside their homes and discussed the latest development in low tones. Most inhabitants of the town also stayed at home to avoid the prying eyes of security agents investigating the matter.

However, some concerned indigenes of the community who spoke to *Saturday Independent* on condition of anonymity, described the incident as "very sad and unfortu-

nate".

"It is rather unfortunate that a young man's life would end like this. We have never witnessed this kind of thing in our community. Umulumgbe people are peace loving and we do not spill each other's blood. But you can now see how a brother has taken the life of another brother. This is an abomination. It is unheard of" one of the elders who spoke to *Saturday Independent* said.

Also reacting to the incident, the State Commissioner of Police Musa A. Daura described the incident as unfortunate.

"People should not take the laws into their hands no matter the circumstances," Daura said.

Meanwhile, the dead body of the deceased has been deposited at Our Saviour Mortuary for autopsy while *Saturday Independent* learnt that some non-governmental organisations have expressed interest in following the matter to its logical conclusion.