

Ghost visits Edo police cell, haunts murder suspect

• Law must take its course, says CP

By Ajibola Abayomi,
News Editor

ON 13 June this year, when a 5-man armed gang led by Abuede Solomon kidnapped 23 years old medical doctor, Ehikhuemen Terry Akhere, who recently graduated from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma and raped to comma, 18 years old lady, Sandra Uduimoh, a student of the same institution, they never thought that apart from meeting their Waterloo, that nemesis was around the corner.

Having led others to murder Ehikhuemen after snatching his Infinity FX 35 Jeep with registration number EFR 218 FV and other valuables that include ATM card and three mobile phones, and later went on to force Sandra to lose her virginity, it never occurred to Abuede in particular that he had murdered sleep.

For weeks, now the ghost of the late doctor has continued to torment the gang leader both night and day in the police's custody for cutting him down at his prime.

According to Edo State Police Commissioner, Mr Foluso Adebajo, he said, he was speechless and lacked words to condole the deceased's father and his twin brother, Ehikhuemen Emmanuel, when both broke down in tears at his office.

"The human in me was weak. As a father, I was touched that such wicked act could be perpetrated in our society just because some overzealous youths wanted money at all cost. When I met the deceased's relatives in my office days ago, I felt their pains," he said.

During an encounter with Saturday Independent at the Criminal Investigation Unit of Edo State Police Command where the suspects are being held, Abuede, who until five months ago before he took to kidnapping was an Okada rider (commercial motor cycle operator), lamented that he has been having sleepless nights at the detention for weeks.

He could not hold back his guilt as he narrated how he was being haunted by the ghost of the deceased.

The suspect who combines both English and pidgin during the encounter recalled: "The guy (Ehikhuemen) don appear in my dream more than 14 times. At a point, he wore black gown and beckoned at me. Each time, I attempted to ask for his forgiveness, he go disappear."

"I dey see am physically sef apart from my dream. I don see am face to face with my eyes open on many occasions. On Sunday and Monday, in a broad day light, he pointed fingers at me while putting on white cap.



From left, Solomon Abuede, Kelvin Edward, James Monday and Sunday Oviasogie

What I now noticed since Monday was that each time, I pleaded for forgiveness, and he now listens to me unlike before. I am really being troubled. Him no dey talk o, he go just dey point me."

"After that, he don come again wearing white shot and singlet. Before I no dey believe say if person kill any man, he fit come talk to the person wey kill am but this one I see am kokoro with my own eyes. He put on white cap. I know no whether others they see am for their cell but I dey see am o. Make God forgive me, I don sin, the boy spirit still dey pursue me."

Asked how the deceased and lady were trapped, he said "on that day, we were looking for car to snatch and we came across them. We had been told by our boss, Monday Ezomon who had since eloped that each time we come across vehicle with tracker, we should injure or kill the owner in order to avoid being traced after."

The 24 years old suspect who hails from Ugbegun-Nebudin Village, Esan Central Local Government, Edo State, added that "three of us beat him (Ehikhuemen) and later drawn him in a well at one uncompleted building in Ekpoma. No be only me raped the girl, three of us fuck am. I know what I did was bad. I am asking for forgiveness. We later dropped the car at Torino Hotel, Ekpoma after spending the night with the girl and sold the car for N500, 000. I was picked up at Ekpoma while attending a burial by the police officers after one month."

"Please, I am confessing the

truth so that police can forgive me. Since, I was arrested; I have given my life to Christ. I know the nature of crime I committed. I am begging for forgiveness from the victim's family even though I know it is not easy to be forgiven. I had pleaded with police that before they detained us that Monday Ezomon should be arrested too because he will be somewhere now watching us on television and reading our story in the newspaper. If I am released, I will thank God, the family of the deceased and the police commissioner for the favour and be useful to almighty God" he said.

A mild drame however ensued when his other accomplices James Monday, 27, Kelvin Edward, 24 and Sunday Oviasogie (61) were charting with our reporter as they contradicted one another in their submissions.

While Abuede claimed that they all dragged the deceased to the well after he was beaten to comma, James, a Nangash born from Riom Local Government in Plateau State countered that "my hand no dey, I only fuck the girl and after that everybody enter the girl well well. Yes, we beat the boy, but nobi mi throw am for well, na Abuede. If na mi kill am, why he no appear for my dream? He asked.

As an orphan, he said he found his way to Ekpoma on his own years ago as an Okada rider, and joined the kidnap gang this year due to frustration he said was occasioned by the devil. He however did



• Adebajo

not deny nor agreed that his brother equipped the gang with cutlass and local pistol they used for their operations as alleged by Abuede.

Similarly, Kelvin who blamed the devil for his involvement said he was not responsible for the death of the deceased but confessed to be an active member of the gang for months and that he participated fully in the kidnapping incident.

In his brief submission, he said: "On getting to Fidelity Bank at Ekpoma, we noticed it was wrong pin number that he (the deceased) gave to us. It was one of us that bought poison (rat medicine) which we used to poison the victim before he died. Abuede was the one who threw the victim inside a well of the water at the uncompleted building in Ekpoma."

The 61 years old car dealer, Sunday Oviasogie, father of six who bought the stolen Infinity Jeep denied being a member of the gang but however admitted that he had been transact-

ing illicit businesses with them for sometimes.

"I am ashamed of myself that at this age, my children will be reading about my involvement in this shameful deal. I was a trailer driver. I started driving trailer in 1972 but had to quit in 1973 due to an accident. I later returned to my familiar terrain in 2010 when I regained fitness using pickup van to transport tomatoes to Sokoto, Maiduguri and other states from Benin. I sold the Infinity Jeep I bought from Ezomon to one Alhaji Saidu who is based in Kano for N500, 000."

"My life is terrible now devil has put me to shame. I have sold several cars both within and outside the country. I have never made monetary gains from the business" Oviasogie lamented.

Although, he claimed he only bought genuine cars, but on the other hand, police submission proved contrary.

According to the police findings, the man who uses 'Alhaji' and 'Epa' as business names to hide his identity has been transacting illegal business for over 15 years and had received over 100 exotic cars from kidnappers in Delta, Edo States and beyond sold at cheap rate for ready buyers who ferry the cars to Niger, Cameroon and other African countries.

The suspect, an indigene of Ugieghudun in Ughumwoded Local Government, Edo state was trailed to Kano where he was eventually arrested and brought to Benin after attempts to get him within Edo State failed.

He admitted in his confessional statement with the police that the Kano based Alhaji he sold the Infinity Jeep to, gave him an advance payment of N420,000 "and promised to pay the balance at later date. Out of the said N420,000, I gave Monday Ezomon and James N245, 000. I am aware that these cars I received from Monday Ezomon and his friends were snatched cars."

The gang according to police was tracked and arrested with the aid of Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools due to the sophisticated nature of their operations, and had allegedly carried out three robberies and kidnapping incidents in the state.

Commenting further, the police commissioner, said "I am aware of Abuede's claim that he was being tormented by ghost of the deceased. Yes, he has been lamenting but police station is not a spiritual center. The law is very clear. They have to face the consequences of their actions at the court where their fate will be determined. We will do everything possible to arrest those at large and prosecute them accordingly after interrogation."