

Family Of Slain Benue Monarch Petitions IGP, Demands Investigation Into Alleged Assassination

DANIEL ABIA

P/HARCOURT

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Usman Alkali Baba, has been petitioned for an urgent investigation to unravel the immediate and remote causes of the death of a slain Monarch, Chief Stephen Ada Ochekwu, alleged to have been assassinated last December.

Speaking with Journalists in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, daughter of the late Monarch, Miss Lizzy Ochekwu, who described the death of her father as "gruesome" said his death has ripped members of the family apart especially that some of those who allegedly involved in the assassination were still at large.

"My late father had written to the Makurdi Police Headquarters several times. My father went on exile because of threat to his life and he wrote to the police to investigate his opponent after several threats from the man.

"Now that my father is dead, we want the IGP, Usman Alkali Baba, to investi-

gate the killing of my father and other killings and the threat to my family members," she pleaded.

The call was sequel to a petition written by the family Attorney, Barrister Paul Omengala and co. and made available to journalists in Port Harcourt which described as unwarranted and brutal the murder of the chief at his Ugbokpo residence, Ape LGA.

The petition said the late Monarch had emerged through a due and recognised process of chieftaincy election having defeated his opponent and was recognised by the Benue State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Piqued by the inability of the Benue security agencies to provide him and the community's protection, after he had severally written to inform them of the security challenges especially from the perceived opponents, whom he defeated in several litigations up to the Supreme Court, Omengala condemned the unwarranted assassination of the clan chief, saying it was most dastardly.