

Court Remands A/Ibom Monarch Over Alleged Murder

BY INIOBONG EKPONTA, Uyo

The clan head of Ikpanya, in Ibiono Ibom local government area of Akwa Ibom State, Obong Isaac David Ononsin, has been remanded in the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) facility at Ikot Ekpene local government area over multiple charges bothering on murder, maiming and destruction of properties belonging to his subjects.

Obong Ononsin, who was arraigned before the Magistrate

Court, Uyo, the state capital, is alleged to have masterminded the killing of a primary school head-teacher, Mr Essien Johnson, and his 10-year-old son, Ediomi, and cutting off the right hand of another, identified as Idongesit, the late Johnson's first child.

Besides, the traditional ruler was accused of maiming other residents of the clan and razing down several houses over indiscriminate seizure of lands and economic trees including oil palm trees.

According to a petition dated August 11, 2023, addressed to Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno; Akwa Ibom State Police Command; the State House of Assembly, and other relevant authorities, wife of the deceased teacher, Mrs Bassey Essien Johnson, through her counsel, S. S. Ebong, narrated that the "very callous, tyrannical and villain Clan Head had instructed a gang of cultists, codenamed 'Uyio Idung', to beat up her husband for harvesting palm fruits on his (deceased)

plot of land."

The deceased, LEADERSHIP Friday gathered, was the headmaster of Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN) Primary School, Esit Ikpanya, Ibiono Ibom LGA.

The petition alleged that "the clan head runs the seven villages, which make up Ikpanya, with no recourse to any Village Head, and the Clan Council, and has for several years seized control of oil palm trees which he harvests and convert the proceeds for personal use."