

NEWS

After her husband accused her of stealing is N200,000, expectant mother of three is found dead

• Suicide suspected as cause of death

What started as a minor family quarrel over missing money has ended in the death, in controversial circumstances, of a housewife, Mary Eze, an expectant mother of three, in Idanre, Ondo State. The widower, Ifeanyi Ezech, accused the late Mrs Eze of stealing N200,000 from him; to which she denied. Her family is suspecting foul play. **BABATOPE OKEOWO** reports

Alade-Idanre community in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State is still wondering what could make an expectant mother of three, Mrs. Mary Eze, take her life by drinking a substance suspected to be poison.

The people of the agrarian community woke up on August 8 to hear that Mrs Eze had died, allegedly after taking a substance suspected to be Gamalin 20, an anti-cocoa pesticide, after a quarrel with her husband the previous night.

The late Mrs. Eze was accused by her husband, Ifeanyi of stealing N200,000.00, an amount given to him by some of his customers to purchase farm produce for them.

After some family members and co-tenants waded into the dispute, and with the assurance that the matter would be finally settled the following day, everybody went to bed, not knowing what fate awaited the late Mrs Eze.

The landlord of the Ezes Mr. Samuel Adebisi reported to the police that one of his tenants drank Gamalin 20 and fell unconscious.

Before she could be taken to the



• The late Mrs Eze and one of her children

General Hospital, Idanre she died, he added.

Immediately the death was reported to the police, they visited the scene and the Gamalin 20 was recovered at the place. The body was deposited at the mortuary.

However, the family of the deceased and the police are bickering over the cause of her death.

Her family alleged that Ifeanyi murdered their daughter. The

police said the deceased drank poison.

The family, who said they were not present when the police conducted the first autopsy has rejected it.

In their petition to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Sunday Ehindero through their counsel, Mr. Ekerete Udofof, the family asked for another autopsy.

They predicated their request on the fact that the husband had threatened to kill the deceased

over the allegation of stealing his N200,000.00.

"Sometime on August 13, the said Theresa, sister of the deceased, went to our client and informed him that the deceased wanted to see our client immediately in the house as Ifeanyi alleged that his money (about N200,000.00) got lost and he started beating the deceased on the ground that he suspected her.

"Our client immediately followed Theresa to the house wherein he met the deceased and Ifeanyi, who informed him that the deceased stole his money and that unless she returns it, he will deal with her.

"Surprisingly on the morning of the following day, August 14 at about 6.30a.m, Mr Eze woke up our client in his house and told him to come and carry the body of his sister in his house. Our client was shocked at the statement, albeit he fearfully followed Mr Eze to his house wherein he saw the body.

"Considering the incident of alleged threats by Mr Eze to kill the deceased and the facts shortly before the death coupled with the swollen breast, our client has no doubt that the deceased was allegedly killed by him.

"Our client and his relations saw the body in the General Hospital, Idanre up to about 6p.m on August 14. Our client and his relations were surprised to know the following morning that the body had been opened and an alleged 'test' was organised or the foetus removed.

"Our client hereby rejects the result of any 'test' or autopsy, if any, hurriedly conducted and manipulated on the body. Moreso when our client states that same autopsy, if any, was conducted in the absence of any of the relations of the deceased and at night. Our client wonders who identified the body for such autopsy to be conducted. Such autopsy, if any was tailored and organised by Ifeanyi to produce a particular result to legalise and /or provide a legal defence for him."

To douse the tension, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Innocent Ilozuoike has ordered for another autopsy to be conducted in the presence of the family to know the real cause of Mary's death.