

Who killed Mr Yong?

A Chinese businessman is killed by yet unknown person(s) in Lagos. His kinsmen are crying for justice. **BUNMI OGUNMODEDE** reports



Tearful members of the community

DETECTIVES from Pantti Yaba, Lagos Mainland headquarters of the State Criminal Investigations' Department (SCID) are helping the Chinese community in Nigeria to unmask the killers of a Chinese businessman, Liu Jian Yong.

Yong, whose lifeless body was found on Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja on November 16, had his base at the Airport Hotel. His driver, Victor Ochefu, is believed to be on the run.

Ochefu's brother, Emmanuel, who allegedly introduced Victor to the deceased, is said to be helping the police in their investigations.

There are fears that the businessman might have been a victim of ritual killers as his legs and some parts of his body were allegedly removed by the killers. His remains are still in the morgue at the Ikeja General Hospital, pending the outcome of on-going investigations.

Until his death, Yong's plan was to build an ultra modern restaurant within the sprawling China Town, near Ojota on the Third Mainland Bridge.

Members of the Chinese community yesterday expressed the desire to stake their resources in helping the investigating police team to nab those who murdered one of its leading lights in Nigeria.

Its chairman in Lagos, Jacob Wood, who spoke at a short requiem staged in respect of Yong at China Town described yesterday's assembly of Chinese

nationals as very sad.

"We want the Police to help us. We don't mind emptying our pockets to unmask Mr. Liu's killers," Wood said, even as his kinsmen battled to fight back tears.

Head of the Chinese community at the China Town, Sun Guo Ping, condemned the killing, which he alleged was targeted at souring the cordial business relations between China and Nigeria.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of the Divisional Police Headquarters, Ogudu, Mr. Funsho Ajao, said the authority saddled with the task of investigation was already on top of the matter.

His words: "We would try all our possible best that those responsible for the dastardly act are brought to book. We also assure you on the protection of your lives and property."

"All techniques and due process would be applied to get the author of the crime."

However, he cautioned the Chinese against playing into the hands of their domestic servants, who are Nigerians.

He explained that such commitment include divulging

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of itinerary, handing over apartment keys and engaging them without guarantors.

He said that the dearth of adequate information on suspected domestic servants was incapacitating the police in their investigation, whenever complaints are lodged.

The police officer alleged that the Chinese masters often develop cold feet to come up

with facts and evidence for fear of reprisals from relations of reported suspects.

According to him, scores of complaints lodged against stewards, housemaids and servants making away with valuables have been abandoned midway by Chinese complainants.

Such development stalls prosecution, she said.

Ajao reminded Nigerians hired as salesmen at the ware point of the importance of being good ambassadors of their father land by shunning all temptations, adding that it is unfortunate that some unscrupulous Nigerians are out to soil the image of Nigeria.

He admitted that the development might instill fear into the minds of investors, even as he explained that criminal acts were not restricted to Nigeria alone

"It (killing) may send fear to the spines of willing investors. But the fact is, crimes are committed everywhere in the world. The crime rate in Nigeria is even less when compared with those in other countries. But the problem would not over come us", Ajao said.