

# Evil son kills 78-year old father over inheritance

■ Odunayo OGUNMOLA, ■  
Ado-Ekiti

**T**HE people of Odo village lying on the ever-busy Ado-Ilawe Road, Ekiti State are in mourning mood following the gruesome murder of a 75-year-old cocoa merchant, **Chief Benson Egunlae** by his son, Olu on Wednesday morning over the sharing of inheritance.

Olu, who is 35 years of age reportedly used an axe to crush the head of his father at about 10.50 am and disappeared shortly after committing the crime, leaving a very large family in mourning since the crime was committed.

His whereabouts are presently unknown but the body of the deceased has been deposited at the mortuary of the State Specialist Hospital in Ado-Ekiti.

Olu was said to have been locked in a bitter feud with his father over his intention to collect his share of his father's patrimony for over ten years and had threatened his father to give him his share or face his wrath but the father caved in to his pressure by acceding to his demand but was bitter with Olu for attempting to add the patrimony given to his sibling to his share.

Narrating the incident to *The Nation* during a visit to the community on Thursday morning, the village head, the Odolofin of Odo, Chief Adekunle Atoki, said Olu who is a father of three went to meet his father on the farm alongside his wife and tricked the father home but added that members of the community suddenly heard the shouts of "he has killed his father! He has killed his father!"

Brother to the deceased who is a popular packaged water dealer in Ado-Ekiti, Benson Rufus, on learning of the

incident reportedly mobilized mobile policemen to the scene but Olu was not apprehended as he had escaped before their arrival.

Atoki also revealed that the deceased had seven wives while the murderer is the son of the fourth wife adding that the crisis of confidence between him and his father had earlier been taken to the palace of the Ewi of Ado for settlement before it was later taken to court.

The village head also told *The Nation* that the wife tried to prevent Olu from killing his father but he was said to have threatened to behead the wife if she stood in his saying the crime was committed in the presence of his (Atoki's) wife.

The monarch also revealed that he first used machete and gun on the old man but did not succeed in killing him because of spiritual power he had used to fortify himself but resorted to the use of axe by dealing three deadly blows to the head of the septuagenarian.

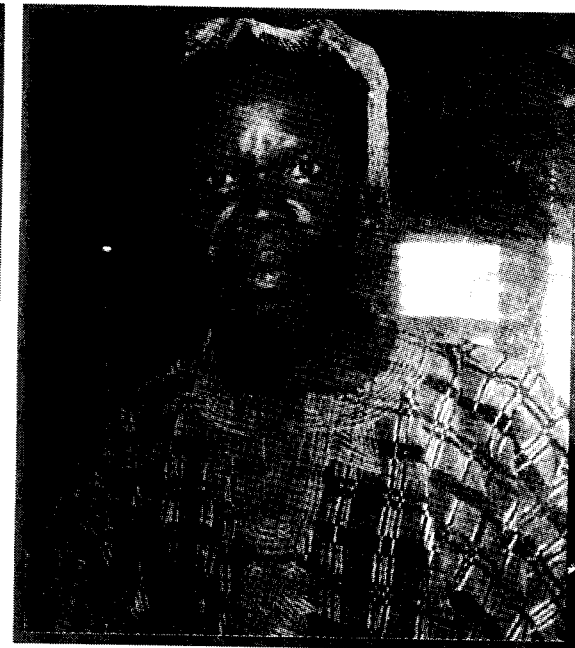
He explained further that the MOPOL men arrived the scene minutes after the dastardly act was committed but he had run away by the time they came leaving the man in the pool of his own blood.

Pa Benson's house is located on the outskirts of the village and it aided the commission of the crime as it is the only house on the fringe of the community on the way to Ilawe with the pool of blood already dry by the time of *The Nation's* visit to the community.

A violent reaction greeted the murder as the locals stormed Olu's residence located on the Ado end and set the three-room bungalow ablaze in anger over



•Mrs Victoria Benson, one of the wives that witnessed the killing Photos: Toyin Anisulowo



•The deceased, Benson Egunlae

the murder of the old man.

But another twist was added to the story during a visit to the Ado residence of the deceased at Atikankan area of the Ekiti State capital as wives, children, relations and family members gathered in groups mourning the blood-chilling murder of Pa Benson.

A family member who craved anonymity told *The Nation* that Olu's wife, Funke actively participated in the murder of her father-in-law as she was said to have used a machete on the deceased as her husband was using axe.

But one of the wives of the deceased, Mrs Victoria Benson who followed the late cocoa merchant to Odo on the day of the incident said Olu went to the farm alongside the father saying she was preparing food at home for the deceased.

She disclosed that she later heard the shouts of the old man whom she said was screaming: "Help, Olu want to kill me with an axe" saying she ran to the scene only to be threatened by the suspect that she would be killed if she raised an alarm.

"He threatened to kill me if I raise an alarm and he hit his father three times with the axe and I went to the next village to report the matter and by the time the MOPOL men arrived, they discovered that the man had died.

"They had been having quarrel before over the issue of inheritance and the father gave him his share of the inheritance. The father had earlier insisted that he wouldn't want to share his inheritance when he has not died but was forced to give him

the share when the pressure became unbearable.

"He is not the only child as there are many children in the family but he was bent on collecting his share but the father was angry when he learnt that Olu has been appropriating other properties to himself, most especially the cocoa plantation", the woman said amidst sobs.

The family said the matter had already been reported to the police who had commenced investigation into the killing as Olu, his wife, Funke and their three children are presently on the run to escape from the long arm of the law.

Olu's mother was also on Thursday arrested by policemen attached to Iyin-Secretariat Road police station over the disappearance of his son and to assist the police in their investigations of the murder.