

A father's agony

They were promising children, now they have been brutally killed – father



• Gungur



• L-R: The twins, Shaana and Veena

IDENTICAL twins, Shaana and Veena, daughters of Mr Timothy Gungur, former caretaker chairman of Konshisha local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State, left home on the morning of June 11, but ended up dead and their bodies found in a swamp.

The incident sent shockwaves throughout the council area especially as the girls who would have turned 10 three days before their death, were said to be very healthy before their death.

Their heart-broken father is pointing accusing fingers at one of his relatives simply identified as Iorumber Adeani who, according to him, hit the girls with witchcraft.

Family sources told *The Nation* that the lovely twins left their family house in Gungur village on the fateful day for their tailor's.

What really happened? How come they suddenly went missing and their bodies, with nostrils soaked in blood, were later found in the swamp?

Mr Gungur, who is the Head of Department of Tourism, Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Kogi State, told *The Nation* that his twins had returned from Church service and were served food at home.

"As they walked back to the house from church, they were singing a hymn and saying 'we are going to heaven, devil bye-bye,'" he narrated.

Gungur said after helping their mother to prepare food, the twins did not wait to eat but hurried off to their tailor.

That was about noon. Hours rolled by and darkness later enveloped the landscape – no sign of the twins.

Panic gripped the Gungur household. When Mr. Gungur returned from a trip he made earlier in the day and found out that his daughters were not yet back home, which was unlike them, he made inquiries from his mother who was living with them as to the whereabouts of the children.



• 'Confessed' suspect

■ Uja EMMANUEL, Makurdi ■

"My mother told me that they took their uniforms to the tailor for mending. I sent someone to the tailor and he said the children were there but at that time he was not around, so they dropped the uniforms and when he returned, he

mended the clothes and since then, they had not returned to take them," said Gungur in tears.

"We collected their uniforms and searched all throughout the night but did not find them; so we went back to the house and prayed all night for them until the following day. Very early in the

Surprisingly a member of my family appeared in the swamp and pointed to a waterlogged side and said the children are there; immediately, my junior went there and recovered the body of one of the twins and he went back again and recovered the second corpse; all with blood coming out of their nostrils. I was shocked and speechless

morning, we went back to the tailor's house because this is the last person that saw them before they went missing and asked him the direction the children took and for him to show us; so we began another search," he recounted.

Gungur told *The Nation* that he and his younger brother, Jude, took a back path leading to the swamp and on their way, they found the clothes and slippers worn by the twins in the middle of the road.

"Immediately I became apprehensive because this was the items of my children I was searching for and wondered why they were dumped there.

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The family, according to Gungur, carried out a traditional inquest and the family member who helped discover the corpse of the twins allegedly confessed, after being drilled, that he was responsible for the death of the twins through witchcraft. The community's elders took a decision banishing him from the place.

Gungur described his twins who were born on June 14 as very promising, full of life. He said he will continue to miss them but added that as a Christian he has left revenge to God and accepted everything as the will of God that he should lose two children at a time.

The twins were buried last Saturday. The unfortunate incident has turned Gungur community into a mecca of sorts as people have been trooping to the village to confirm the story and see the swamp where the incident happened.