

# Tension in Ekiti community over student's murder

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**T**ENSION is mounting in Odo-Oro community in Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State over the murder of a 26-year-old student, Dele Awogbemi by suspected cultists.

Awogbemi, an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) student of Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja was hacked to death by persons believed to be on the payroll of a local chief in the community. His death has heightened tension in the agrarian community.

The tension was further aggravated by arrest of some youths who staged a protest against Awogbemi's killing. The police detained them for about two weeks.

Reliable sources in the community told *The Nation* that the student was inflicted with machete cuts, leading to his death a couple of weeks ago over the crisis generated by a chieftaincy title in the area.

The bone of contention is the Alara chieftaincy title which is believed to be one of the most prestigious titles in Odo-Oro.

Awogbemi's death was believed in the community to have been masterminded by the local chief who was alleged to have mobilised cultists on the pretext that they were serving as his bodyguards as he expected violence by those aggrieved with the conferment of the title on the said chief.

Addressing a news conference in Ado-Ekiti on the incident, the Deputy Coordinator of the Odo-Oro Patriotic Front, Mr Suyi Ayodele called on the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro to immediately launch an investigation into the killing with a view to bringing the perpetrators to book.

Ayodele expressed dismay with the boast of the local chief that he cannot be brought to justice because of his connections and expressed disappointment with the attitude of some traditional chiefs in the town.

He also condemned the escape of a principal suspect in the murder who was the leader of the gang of cultists hired by the chief to eliminate Awogbemi.

The suspect was said to have supervised the killing of the victim, saying it is embarrassing in this democratic age that somebody would commit murder and would still be allowed to walk the streets free.

"It was glaring to everybody that the chieftaincy title necessitated the bringing of cultists to the town as bodyguards by the chief suspect to forestall the disruption of the conferment procession during which Dele was chased by these agents of death who macheted him in the presence of his father.

"He later died in the hospital. The youths who protested the death and the escape of the principal

suspect were being detained by these wicked people because they are rich.

"We want to warn the principal actors in this crisis to stop further arrests of youths of the town in the interest of peace", Ayodele said.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Yomi Onashile revealed that the police had launched a manhunt for the escaped cultists declaring the readiness of his command to bring the killers to justice.

While explaining that investigations are going on over the matter, Onashile said he had been fully briefed on the matter but confirmed that though the principal actor had fled the community, police would do everything possible to arrest him.

## We won't succumb over power probe

**T**HE Chairman, House Committee on Power, Honourable Ndudi Elumelu has said in Kano that no amount of threat or harassment from any quarter can prevent the committee from doing a thorough job or abandon the on-going investigation in the power sector.

Also, the Kano State government has protested the localization of the power generation facilities, under the Independent Power Plant, saying it is a lopsided situation which has negated fairness.

The Committee Chairman said it is the constitutional duty of the house to checkmate all the issues related to the power sector because it is on record that many negative things occurred in that sector.

"We have to make sure that we probe the sector to know those involved in the contracts and what stopped the other contractors to complete their power projects," he said.

Speaking in Kano Government House, while receiving the proposal of the state on the power sector, Elumelu lamented that the power sector has failed as the past governments refused to probe the use of funds allocated to the sector.

He said that "it is very disheartening that power is now the major problem in our country as every nook and cranny is in dire need of electricity, while the present service of electricity is very low in a country like Nigeria, and we have to wake up to investigate this failure".