



• A view of the building



• Late Mrs. Abubakar: curious death

Expectant woman slumps, dies

... at the sight of her husband being tortured by the police in Zamfara

MR. Isah Gangaba Abubakar is in a terrible emotional state. No matter the sermonisation, he has remained inconsolable. He would gaze vacantly into space and sob and sob.

The music of life stopped for him and his world crashed when he watched his heavily expectant wife collapse and die at a police station.

And the circumstances were no less dramatic.

His wife, Semira, gave up the ghost because she could no longer endure painful sight of her husband being tortured by the police!

Narrating the tragic story to The Nation, Abubakar, who sobbed uncontrollably like a child throughout the chat, said some people who claimed to be workers of the Zamfara State Ministry of Lands and Housing, accompanied with about 20 armed policemen, had invaded their abode - Bolunku Rijiya settlement and began to demolish their houses.

Hours presaging the invasion, Abubakar said residents had noticed strange movements within the settlement, but they didn't suspect anything sinister because, according to him, the place had

From Ifeanyichukwu Nwannah,
Gusau

been peaceful since they got to the area.

But that peace was ruptured when the unwelcome guests aided by their police accomplices began to demolish the houses and structures in the settlement without any warning or explanation.

"I then confronted them and demanded why they were demolishing our house.

He said one Sani (surname withheld), who led the policemen told him point blank that it was "an order from above."

At this stage, the residents resisted the demolition and a scuffle ensued between them and the police.

The music of life stopped for him and his world crashed when he watched his heavily pregnant wife collapse and die at a police station

Consequently, Abubakar and one other resident, who could not immediately be identified were overpowered by the police and taken to the Tudun Wada Police Station.

Abubakar said they were given the torture of their lives at the station. "I was shocked beyond measure that policemen in this modern age, could be so cruel to citizens they are paid to protect," he said, in reaction to the torture.

By his own account, the policemen were particularly hard on him (Abubakar) for allegedly proving stubborn.

By this time, his wife had come to the station and witnessed how her husband was being tortured by the policemen. At a point the sight became unbearable for the 23-yr-old woman, who was already nine-months pregnant and was, in fact, expected to be delivered the same week.

The woman collapsed and died before she could reach the hospital.

Abubakar could not fathom why the ministry would send its workers to demolish their houses, in the first place because they bought the land properly.

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Woman slumps, dies at police station at the sight of her tortured husband



• Side view of one of the demolished buildings

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He said the land was bought from a village head, adding that a certificate of ownership was duly issued to them by the same ministry as well as the Zamfara State Urban and Regional Planning Board (ZUREPB).

He said, apart from that, no notification of demolition was served them from any quarters.

He is contemplating legal action against the leader of the police team and state police command.

However, the state Commissioner for Lands and Housing, Alhaji Sani Bakura, who confirmed the incident, said the area in question had already been acquired by the state government for an industrial layout.

He added that all the residents of the area had been compensated.

The commissioner he had constituted a committee to go round the state and ensure that there was no encroachment on any government's land.

He disclosed that before the committee swung into action, he had written a letter to the Acting Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Mohammed Manko, requesting for policemen to give his men security cover.

He said the committee became necessary because

I was shocked beyond measure that policemen in this modern age, could be so cruel to citizens they are paid to protect

it was discovered that most of the lands acquired by the state government were still being used by the same people who had already been compensated.

According to him, some of them went to the extent of reselling the lands over which the government had compensated them.

"We even paid for jingles in the state radio and television warning people to avoid buying

these lands," the commissioner said.

He added: "I did not direct anybody to demolish anybody's house or structure; I didn't not direct anybody to attack or arrest anybody. All I sent them was to demarcate the lands and mark the structures with red paint for people to know that the lands belong to the government."

The new Commissioner

of Police, Mr. Mohammad Abubakar, said he was aware of the incident, but he said he had not assumed office when it occurred. He, however, admitted that the deputy commissioner, who was acting for the commissioner at the time, did endorse the letter from the ministry.

The police boss said it was not the duty of any policemen to demolish any house, vowing that he would fish out all the policemen who engaged themselves in offensive act and deal with them according to regulations laid down in the Police Act and Regulations.

"I will study the content of the endorsed letter and if anybody had taken the law into his hands, he will be dealt with. I will call for the case file and put everything in proper shape," the police boss reassured.

Manko himself confirmed that a letter was sent to his office by the state commissioner for lands and housing, requesting for policemen to secure his men on field work. He said no part of the letter indicated any demolition, attack or arrest.

"So, I only instructed the area commander of Zamfara Central Station to take action," he clarified.

For now, what next as Abubakar sulks over the double tragedy that has befallen him?

New dress code for Adeyemi College of Education students

THE management of Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, has, in keeping with its determination to rid the institution of bad eggs, issued a dress code to students.

The authority also warned students to desist from cultism and urged those who are involved to renounce cultism in their own interest or face the dire consequences of defaulting.

Copies of the two statements, which were made available to the press, were pasted on the school notice boards in strategic locations.

The statement entitled, "Dress Code for Students" forbids all students of Adeyemi College from wearing what was termed as "indecent dresses," especially within the school premises.

It reads: "The following constitute inappropriate modes of dressing which will not be tolerated from students in the lecture halls, library, laboratories, examination venues, seminar and administrative buildings: Short and skimpy dresses such as body hugs, show me your chest, spaghetti wears and dresses exposing sensitive parts of the body."

Other outlawed dresses include tight shorts and obscene skirts, which are above the knees except for sporting purposes, tattered jeans, transparent and see-through dresses.

On the list were also tight fitting dresses such as latria, patra, wearing of earrings and plating or perming of

From Akinwale
Aborisade, Ondo

hair by male students, wearing of long and short dresses with long slits, wearing of bathromm slippers within academic environment and tying of scarf by male students and complete covering of faces by students.

The Provost of the College, Prof Adeyemi Idowu, who said students should not lose focus warned them against cultism. He said rather than involve themselves in the evil, they should "Stay with their education and achieve the objectives."

The released issued on cultism directs the students to report any case of cultism to the school security or the authority.

He said: "Do not be cajoled in whatever manner to join cult activities; Do not be afraid to report any suspicion to the security operatives near you; you are not only going to help yourself but many others; Do not stay late in the night both in school and outside the campus. Make your environment conducive for learning for yourself and others."

The management warned that whoever defaults would be brought to book.

The penalties, based on the gravity of the offence, could be expulsion from the school.

For indecent dressing, it may attract being sent out of lecture hall, expulsion from hall of residence, suspension for one semester and even expulsion from the school.

Oshiomhole accuses PDP of defacing billboards

THE Oshiomhole Campaign Organisation has accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Edo State of defacing campaign boards of its governorship candidate, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole.

It accused the leadership of the party in the state of sponsoring suspected thugs to destroy and at times deface Oshiomhole's billboards.

In a petition to the Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of police in charge of Zone 5, Special Assistant to the Action Congress (AC) governorship candidate, Aruna Gregory, alleged that the PDP had said, shortly after the judgment of the election petition tribunal, that it would cause "incontrollable chaos in the state rather than see

From John Mayaki and
Ismaila Yakubu, Benin

Oshiomhole sworn in as governor of Edo State".

The petition accused the protocol officer to the chairman of a local government in the state of leading suspected thugs to destroy Oshiomhole's billboards in the local government area.

"It is germane to point out here that the same PDP elements and thugs had earlier boasted after the tribunal verdict that they would rather cause uncontrollable chaos in the state than see Oshiomhole sworn in as governor of Edo state. This desperate position is apparently borne out of frustration and total loss of confidence in their ability to sustain the legal battle at the Court of Appeal".



• Senator Bukar Ibrahim



• Governor Mamman Ali

CORRIGENDUM: In our Monday, May 19, 2008 edition, we carried the picture of Alhaji Abba Bukar Ibrahim (left), former Governor of Yobe State, now a senator, instead of that of Senator Mamman Bello Ali, current governor. The error is regretted - Editor