

Detained lawmaker denies killing aspirant

From Iniobong Ekponta, Uyo
CHAIRMAN of the House of Representatives' Committee on Lands and Transport Bernard Udoh has denied involvement in the murder of Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly aspirant, Dr. Joseph Akpanakpudo.

Akpanakpudo was killed on New Year's Eve, while returning from a political meeting in his hometown, Mkpato Enin in Ikot Abasi.

The Inspector-General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, had ordered the Commissioner of Police, Sani Magagi, to arrest some political leaders in the area, including Udoh.

Also arrested were a House of Assembly member, Ekong Sampson; the Mkpato Enin Council chair, Mfon Nkanteen and other chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

They were charged to the Uyo Chief Magistrate's Court two weeks ago, but the judge said he lacked the jurisdiction to try the case.

He adjourned and transferred the matter to the High Court, and directed the prosecutor to return the case file to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

Udoh denied involvement in the killing, arguing that he had won election in the constituency three times without killing anybody.

He said it was illogical for the police to detain him because, according to him, he was not contesting the same seat with the deceased.

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