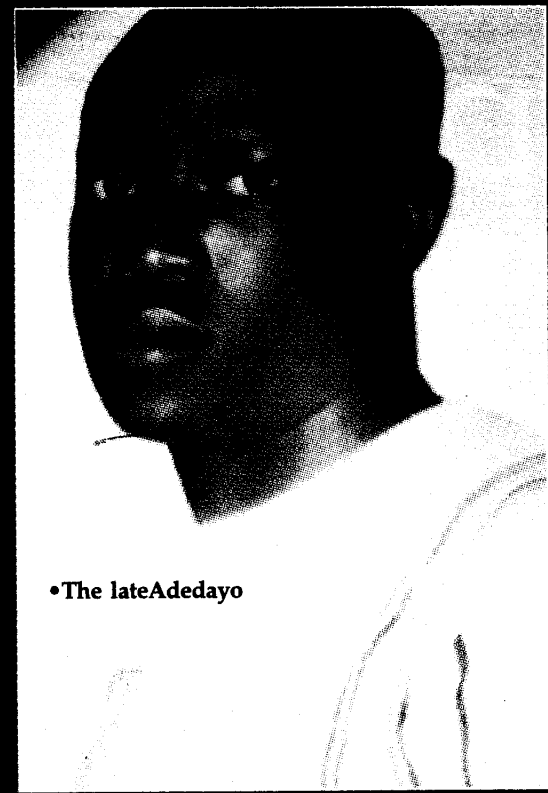


•The burnt building



•The late Adedayo

Rage in Lagos community:irate mob raze building as errant youth stabs electrician to death over N100 levy

A MINOR disagreement over an electricity levy in Ikorodu, Lagos State has sent 24-year-old electrician, Sikiru Adedayo, to early grave.

The deceased was allegedly stabbed to death by one Lateef Majaro when the late electrician went to his residence to ask for the N100 levy.

Trouble was said to have begun when the deceased, in an attempt to collect the levy for the repairs of electricity on Oduyabo Street, got into a shouting match with his alleged assailant named Lateef. The matter was later resolved, but its resolution did not go down well with Lateef, who allegedly reached for a broken bottle and stabbed Sikiru to death.

Findings revealed that the residents of the streets had been thrown into darkness for sometime because of damaged electric cables. Rather than wait endlessly for the PHCN to fix the problem, the community's leaders resolved to contract the job to the deceased with a mandate that he should collect the sum of N100 from each house.

It was gathered that all other residents had complied with the payment of the levy, except one Madam Monsurat Majaro. The deceased decided to ask her for the money after he had restored the light.

Our correspondent learnt that when the deceased got to No 21, Oduyabo Street where the woman lives, he was confronted by the woman's son and an altercation ensued. Following the intervention of some residents in the matter, the deceased allegedly left the scene, but 19-year-old Lateef gave him a hot chase with a broken bottle in his hand. It was gathered that some bystanders who saw Lateef pursuing the deceased allegedly alerted him and told him to run for dear life. But his assailant caught up with him before he could take to his heels.

Lateef allegedly stabbed Sikiru in the chest several times, following which he fell down in a pool of blood. He was immediately rushed

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

to a nearby private hospital from where he was referred to the Ikorodu General Hospital. He, however, died on his way to the hospital.

Findings also revealed that when the news got to town that Lateef had run away, irate youths stormed his parents' residence and razed the building to avenge the killing of the electrician who was described by many of the residents as humble and hardworking.

One of the deceased's friends, who asked not to be named, recalled the incident. He said: "The incident happened on Sunday. I was in my shop in the morning

Irate youths stormed his parents' residence and razed the building to avenge the killing of the electrician who was described by many of the residents as humble and hardworking

when I heard Sikiru complaining loudly. I approached him to find out what was wrong and he told me that he had gone to ask for the N100 electricity levy from the woman after fixing their light, but she and her son confronted him.

"He was still complaining to some

people as he walked down the street, not knowing that Lateef was chasing him with jagged-edge of a broken bottle. Lateef caught him unawares and stabbed him several times around his armpit. Although he was quickly taken to a private hospital from where was later referred to Ikorodu General

Hospital, he died as soon as he got to the hospital."

Our correspondent gathered that the matter had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) for further investigation.

Another resident, who pleaded anonymity, described the incident as unfortunate, calling for the arrest of Sikiru's alleged killer.

"Sikiru is a well known electrician in this area. He had been doing his job diligently without any problem. In my opinion, the suspect who is now at large over-reached himself by stabbing him to death. Every house on the street contributed N100 each and no one raised an eyebrow, except Lateef and his mother," the resident said.

A PALL of grief fell on the headquarters of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Ibadan Distribution Zone, Oyo State, on March 3, following the death of Assistant General Manager, Human Resources, Admin and Services, Mr. Michael Bamidele Obadimeji, during a robbery attack at Papo village on the outskirts of the ancient city.

It was gathered that the deceased, who hailed from Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, had left his home to participate in a special midnight service in his church. He was said to be riding in his ash colour Toyota Avenis salon car with registration number FGN 994 P41 when he was attacked by robbers who shot him dead and took his car away.

Sources at the deceased's office, who asked for anonymity, described the deceased General Manager as a peace-loving man and a intelligent professional.

A source said: "Oga (Obadimeji) was such a nice person and a trained manager of men. He was God-fearing and would always try to help people irrespective of their ethnic background. It was just unfortunate that some heartless fellows chose to kill him despite

the fact that he was a harmless person.

"It would have been better if the robbers had snatched the vehicle and spared his life because of his many dependants. I know that the robbers who masterminded his gruesome death would be apprehended by the Police before long."

In a statement signed by the Acting Managing Director of the Distribution Zone, Mr. Tokunbo Peter, he described the deceased as one of the best administrators who knew how to manage people well, adding that the Oyo State Police Command had begun investigation into the matter.

The deceased, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), according to the statement, is survived by an aged mother, wife and children. He has since been buried.

Robbers shoot Ibadan PHCN chief dead on way to church

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■



•Obadimeji