

Bank chief meets tragic death

AFTER a five-day struggle to live, Douglas Udeh, Head, E-Banking at the Fidelity Bank, Adeyemo Alakija Branch, Victoria Island, Lagos, has lost the battle.

On June 30, he had sustained bullet injuries when he was caught up in a shoot-out between suspected armed robbers and the police. He died last Thursday after futile efforts to make him live by doctors at the Lagoon Hospital, Apapa.

The late Udeh and his wife, Chioma, were abducted by the robbers on that fateful Sunday in Jibowu area, where they had gone to pick a relation from a park.

With his wife, he was said to have been forced into the booth of their Toyota Corolla car by the bandits.

The late Udeh, a Marketing Communications Strategist, and his wife, were driven to Balogun area by the robbers, where they allegedly robbed two banks.

It was gathered that the robbers, while leaving the second bank, encountered some policemen, leading to an exchange of gunfire.

In the process, Enugu State-born Udeh was "hit by bullets in the

'Enugu State-born Udeh was "hit by bullets in the stomach and heart." The bandits were said to have abandoned the car and escaped, leaving the father of two in a pool of blood, as his wife watched in helplessness'

By Jude Isiguzo,
Police Affairs Correspondent

stomach and heart."

The fleeing bandits were said to have abandoned the car and escaped, leaving the father of two in a pool of blood, as his wife watched in helplessness.

A colleague of the deceased said that after the shot-out, Mrs Udeh rushed to a nearby police station to

seek assistance for her husband.

"At the station, the police inundated her with questions, over her mission out there at that "ungodly" hour. They ignored her until a senior officer walked in and asked what the problem was. He ordered his men to follow her to the scene", the source at the Fidelity Bank told *The Nation*.

Udeh was reportedly rushed to the Intensive Care Unit of the Lagoon Hospital, where some bullets were extracted from his body. But his condition did not improve.

His family decided to fly him out of the country for surgery and further treatment. His employers also made the move. Thus, the bank arranged for a hired air ambulance from South Africa. But Udeh gave up the ghost as he was being wheeled into the ambulance on the tarmac of the airport in Lagos last Thursday.

Efforts to speak with his widow at their Ilupeju home failed as she was too devastated to talk.

Lagos Police spokesperson Ngozi Braide said yesterday that she was yet unaware of the incident, saying she would find out its details.

Pastor's daughter battles heart disease

FIVE-year-old Erioluwa Olabisi, daughter of resident pastor of Christ Life Baptist Church, Ejigbo, a Lagos suburb, Rev. Zechariah Olabisi, needs urgent financial assistance for a corrective heart surgery in China.

After a diagnosis, a hole was initially discovered in her heart when she was barely two months old. Upon a medical intervention in India in 2008, relief came, thus foreclosing the possibility of surgery.

Trouble, however, resurfaced in May, this year, when Erioluwa's ailment relapsed with multiple complications.

The pupil of Effort Will Nursery and Primary School, Ejigbo, has since become a patient of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba, where doctors confirmed that she has congestive cardiac failure with severe hypertension and chronic disease (Stage 5).

A medical report from LUTH, says: "She has symptomatic congenital disease, which was confirmed echocardiography to be atria-septal defect for which she traveled to India for repair at 11 months. She was stable until last month when she presented congestive cardiac failure with severe hypertension.

Erioluwa requires chronic dialysis and ultimately, kidney transplanta-



• Erioluwa

By Kunle Akinrinade

tion. She also requires further cardiovascular evaluation and possible open-heart surgery to correct her heart abnormality in order to forestall irreversible and life-threatening complications from developing. Unfortunately, open-heart surgery is currently not available in our hospital.

Little Erioluwa has now been referred for a corrective surgery in China at the cost of N9 million, including the cost of flight tickets, accommodation and visa procurement, among others.

Good Samaritans, Rev Olabisi pleads, could lend a helping hand to save her through Ecobank account number 2742016070, under the name, Olabisi Olusola Zechariah.

Family seeks justice over property

'Stop indiscriminate borehole drilling'