

# Tension in Benin over death of *suya* seller

**T**ENSION is mounting in Benin City, the Edo State capital, over the death of barbecue (*Suya*) seller, Musa Alkali in Oredo Local Government Area.

■ Osemwengie BEN OGBEMUDIA, Benin ■

Alkali was said to have been killed, allegedly by agents of the state revenue agency last

week Friday at his *suya* spot on ADP junction by Airport Road.

Members of the Hausa community on Tuesday, staged a protest at the Oredo Council secretariat, alleging that late Alkali was stabbed to death following his alleged refusal to pay N100 fee to revenue agents reportedly from the Oredo Council Area.

However, Chairman of Oredo Local Government, Osaro Obazee, while reacting to the allegation, absolved the team of revenue collectors of complicity in the death of the *Suya* seller, saying: "No responsible government would send revenue agents to go and kill anybody on any account."

While urging the aggrieved Hausa protesters to be patient, Obazee said he had ordered a full scale investigation into the incident.

However, there are varied accounts of the circumstances

of the death of Alkali, even as Oredo Council boss yesterday scheduled a meeting between the council and the Hausa community leaders.

An eye witness at the scene of the incident said Alkali was killed by bullets from fleeing armed robbers while, another source had it that revenue agents operating in Oredo Council Area demanded the sum of N100 from Alkali at about 8:30pm, saying his refusal led to a fight and was subsequently stabbed to death in the ensuing fracas.

The remains of late Alkali is said to have been buried in a cemetery at Eyaen, a suburb of Hausa dwellers in Benin.

Contacted, the Edo State Police image maker, DSP Moses Eguavoen, was said to be at an official engagement with the Commissioner of Police.

## 500 protest killing of youth in Ebonyi PDP primaries

**N**O fewer than 500 indigenes of Ekoli Edda, Afikpo South Local Government Area of Ebonyi, yesterday, protested the alleged killing of a youth, Kalu Ogbu, during the just concluded Peoples

Democratic Party, PDP, councillorship primaries in the state.

The protesters who were majorly aged women and men, were seen outside the state police headquarters carrying placards.

Some of them read: "Police stop covering the truth", "Punish Stanley and Etta for killing Kalu Ogbu", "Let the truth prevail, arrest the killers now - Stanley", "Stanley should

rest Stanley", "killer shouldn't be given opportunities to head and rule", "Stop playing politics with the life of our people", among others.

The victim who hails from Amaeke Ward1 was killed on July 22nd, as he came out to be part of the councillorship election in Ekoli Edda.

The protesters who cried out for justice, alleged that one Stanley was the person who killed Mr. Kalu Ogbu during the PDP councillorship primaries. They also accused the police of arresting innocent persons who had nothing to do with the ugly incident.

But the Command spokesman, DSP Sylvester Igbo,

## Police arrest 1,103 underage cultism suspects in Imo