

## b Five arraigned for NNPC worker's killing

FIVE men were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja High Court

in Apo for allegedly kidnapping and murdering a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) official, Mr. Sylvester Emefiele.

Emefiele, an electrical and electronics technologist attached to the NNPC's Transformation Office, Corporate Planning and Strategy Division, was kidnapped and murdered on September 23 while on a trip to Abuja from Lagos.

Akinlade Taiwo (41), Timothy Abidemi Lekan (30), Saidi Babatunde (47), Banjo Olaniyi (20) and Saliu Afeez (20) were arraigned on a sev-

en-count charge of conspiracy, kidnapping, murder and armed robbery.

Taiwo, Lekan, Babatunde and others at large allegedly hypnotised the deceased, using fetish charms "provided" by Babatunde.

They allegedly possessed him of his possessions, including a laptop, three Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) cards, a camera, a mobile telephone set and N183,000.

They allegedly tied him up with a rope in a bush at Giri, Gwagwalada Area Council, and "killed" him by "hitting" him with a

sledge hammer.

Olaniyi and Afeez were accused of receiving the deceased's stolen phone from Taiwo and Lekan.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecutor, Oloye Torugbene, objected to an attempt by a defence lawyer, Olaniyi Oyinloye, to move the bail application for Olaniyi.

Torugbene said he was served with the bail application the day before and needed time to respond.

Justice O. A. Musa fixed January 30 for hearing of the bail applications and remanded the accused in Kuje prison.

**Director kidnaps timber dealer in Port Harcourt**