

Mystery death of 34-yr-old graduate in church

• Prophetess, landlord arrested

WHAT could have led to the death of Victor Oguntibeju in a house of God? Is there any linkage between his death and a concoction allegedly given to him by a prophetess in charge of the church? Was it a mere coincidence or deliberate murder at dusk? The answer to these posers on the lips of bereaved family members, friends and neighbours would definitely suffice by the time police conclude investigations on the incident.

The late Oguntibeju had left his home at No 1, Ifelodun Street, Oke-Ijebu, Akure on Tuesday April 8, 2014 for a spiritual consultation at Christ Evangelical Power C&S Church on Saka Ibrahim Street, Oke-Ukere in Akure.

The prophetess identified as Abiodun was said to have given him a particular concoction known as *agbo* in local parlance to treat an undisclosed ailment. He allegedly developed complications after he took the concoction and died shortly later.

One of the close associates of the deceased, who spoke in confidence, told our reporter that Oguntibeju's death was a rude shock. "His death came as a rude shock and I have not recovered from the shock to date. His relations had been looking for him until the lid was blown on his whereabouts by a man who claimed he took him on his motorbike to the church where he allegedly died.

"I learned that he actually spoke on phone with his wife, who was delivered of a child, about a week before he died.

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

after drinking a concoction given to him by one Prophetess Abiodun.

"The commercial motorcycle operator actually insisted that the prophetess must know something about Victor's disappearance because he was the one who brought him to her church the previous day. It was then that the woman confessed to the motorcyclist called Oke that Victor had actually died and that his body has been deposited in the morgue of a public hospital in Akure.

"Victor did not live to see his new child and had barely enjoyed the bliss of his marriage which took place six months ago. He is also survived by aged parents. His mother is currently staying with his wife in Badagry, Lagos State. He never complained of battling with any ailment and I find it difficult to believe that he went to the church to take the concoction that could cure the undisclosed ailment. The prophetess should be held responsible and subsequently prosecuted for her complicity in the death of my good friend."

The story took another turn when the said Prophetess Abiodun led police detectives to the morgue where she deposited Victor's body where it was discovered that she registered his body as 'Oluwaposi Mathew' in the wee hours of April 9.

A community leader, Akin Akinayajo, said: "Victor stayed alone in the house be-

We did not know that something had gone wrong with Victor until his father, who travelled all the way from Okitipupa to check on his son, raised the alarm about his sudden disappearance.

"When the pressure was becoming unbearable for the prophetess, she confessed that Victor died in her church and that his body was deposited in the mortuary. The woman and Victor's landlord have since been arrested by police. The church in question is a shack and many fetish objects stored in sacks were removed by policemen when they visited the scene."

Although, the deceased had trained as a welder when he was unable to secure admission into tertiary institution and practised the profession till death but he was also said to have finished his degree programme at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) Ogbomosho, Oyo State. He had planned to attend the convocation ceremony of the university penultimate Wednesday before he met his untimely death.

Confirming the story in a telephone con-



Victor's widow



The late Victor

lic Relations Officer (PPRO) of Ondo State Command, Mr Wole Ogodo, explained that investigation was still ongoing.

"The case was first reported to the police as that of 'missing person'. The woman (prophetess Abiodun) initially claimed that the deceased was in Ibadan, Oyo State. But when she was accompanied there by our detectives, it was discovered that Victor did not travel to Ibadan. She later took our men to Akure General Hospital where she deposited the decomposing body of the de-

"Although, we are still investigating the matter, but another thing that we found strange was that she actually registered the body as 'Oluwaposi Mathew', while she gave her own name as 'Oluwaposi Michael' at the hospital. We shall soon carry out an autopsy to determine the actual cause of Victor's death and if the woman is found culpable, we shall press charges against her. The matter is currently being handled by the Homicide Unit of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) and I can assure you that justice would be done on this