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•The late Agwu, his wife and son

## Mystery over death of family of five

Posted by: [Ugochukwu Ugoji-Eke](#) in [Southeast report](#) 6 days ago

It was a very bad day for the people of Umuosu, Afugiri, in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State as 54-year-old blind Prophet, Onyenonachi Ihezukwu Agwu, his wife and children were found dead. His landlady and three chickens were also found dead in his four-room apartment.

Prophet Ihezukwu, the founder and General Overseer of Faith Healing Tabernacle Ministry at Nkwoegwu

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hailed from Umukabia, but lived in Umuosu Afugiri, while running his ministry at Nkwoegwu.

The development baffled residents who have kept asking how the blind prophet, his 50-year-old landlady, Mrs. Hannah Okpara, his wife Comfort Ihezukwu who was in her 30s, his 11-year-old son Emmanuel

The irony of the deaths was also the death of three of his fowls which were found dead in the bathroom area of the apartment.

A source close to the venue of the incident who spoke to our correspondent in confidence, said the five corpses were discovered in different places, while the three fowls were found dead in the bathroom area.

Our source said: "We were called up in the early hours of Sunday, April 19, this year in the morning and when we got to Umuosu Afugiri where they lived, behind the Methodist Church, we saw hundreds of sympathisers who were crying over the unfortunate incident. We also met policemen from Afugiri division.

"When we inquired from the police, they told us that they met the generating set on, on arrival. The power generating set, we were told, was bought on Thursday, which is three days before their deaths. The set was found along the passage inside the bungalow and the policemen told us that they were the ones that put the set off."

Our source also said the police told them that they suspected that the victims died as a result of exhaust fume from the power generating set, adding that the late prophet was the only surviving child of his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Ihezukwu Agwu.

"We are his only direct relations, running around for their burial."

The corpses were found in different locations in the apartment. The wife and daughter were found in a room, the prophet was found in the dining room, the landlady was found around the passage, close to the power generating set, the three fowls were found clustered within the bathroom area.

On what must have been another possible cause of death, beside the fume from their power generating set, our source said they cannot think of any other thing, as they are not suspecting any foul play, even as he said there must be speculations in a situation like that.

The landlady was said to have been invited by the Prophet, who informed her that her two children were sick and when she came and suggested that the children should be taken to the hospital, the Prophet turned down the suggestion, that he suspected spiritual attack which he said he was going to handle that night through prayers, adding that after the prayers, they would be okay.. The Landlady was said to be a regular visitor to the house, where she usually goes to hold night prayers with the Prophet and other people at regular intervals.

That night, they were said to have had a meal of rice prepared in the house before going to sleep. Based on information at hand, the only thing one could hold on to as the cause of their death is the fume from that power generating set.

The family source said it was only through autopsy or other scientific methods that one can guess the real cause of their death. But from what I was told by police men, when they came in that morning, they were the ones that broke the door into the apartment and they found the generating set on. So, the power generating set is the prime suspect in this matter.

On what he was doing before going into ministry, our source said: "He lived in Kaduna for a long time; since the 90s. So, he came back around 2012 and established his ministry and was living at Nkwoegwu. But sometime last year, he relocated to Afugiri.

"I don't know if he had a call to the ministry, but about seven years ago, we heard that he had opened a ministry in Kaduna and that the ministry was flourishing and in 2012, he came back to establish the ministry at Nkwoegwu. I don't know what profession he was into before establishing the ministry because I was still a kid when he left home."

He was not born blind, the blindness developed after the death of his father in August, 2002, after a year or two, he developed sight problems which led to blindness.

When his father died in 2002, he did not come home during the burial, even though the mother had been dead long before then. He had married before going completely blind.

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