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Police probe surveyor's killing in Bayelsa land dispute

Posted by: Mike Odiegwu, in News 🕒 11 hours ago

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Bayelsa State Police Command is probing the circumstances that led to the killing of a surveyor, Kolu Eddy, in Yenagoa, the state capital.

Eddy is said to be a victim of the prolonged land dispute between Okutukutu and Opolo suburbs of Yenagoa.

He was allegedly killed by Opolo mobs from Okutukutu when he was supervising the demolition of buildings in the land dispute.

One of the landlords, identified simply as Joseph, whose house was demolished, said Opolo indigenes brought bulldozers to the controversial piece of land and brought down some houses.

He said the people of Opolo claimed ownership of the piece of land sold to developers by Okutukutu indigenes.

Joseph said: "The people of Opolo were many. They came to the disputed land with armed policemen and two bulldozers. They demolished houses in a section of the land.

"The surveyor was supervising the exercise. He followed one of the bulldozers into an unprotected area. Unknown to him, angry youths from Okutukutu were monitoring his movement."

The landlord recalled that the youths were armed with machetes and other weapons to trail the surveyor.

According to him, they caught and "butchered" Eddy with cutlasses.

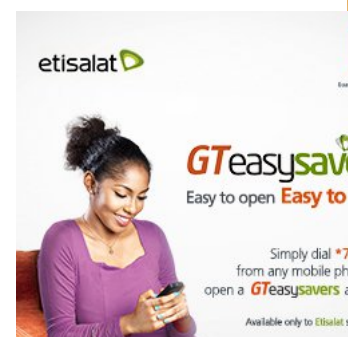
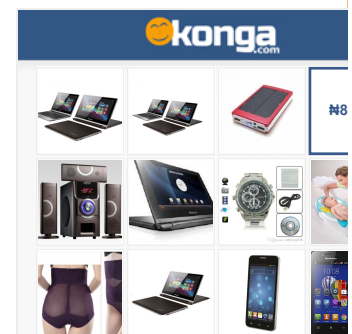
Joseph said the operator of the bulldozer sustained a deep cut on his head as he attempted to escape from the mob.

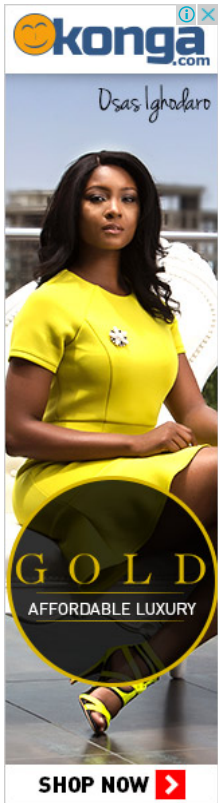
He said: "The surveyor was not fortunate enough. He was deeply and severely attacked with cutlasses.

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They abandoned him in the pool of his blood and ran away following police intervention.

"The surveyor was still breathing when help came his way. But the only problem was that the nearest hospital was at Okutukutu and the people of Opolo were afraid that the mob would come after them, if they took him to the nearby clinic.

"They decided to take Eddy to another hospital. But he died before they could get to the hospital."

Police spokesman Asinim Butswat, an Superintendent of Police (ASP), said the police arrested one suspect in connection with the incident.

He said the police looked forward to arresting more suspects before referring the matter to the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP) for legal advice.



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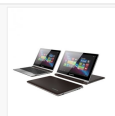
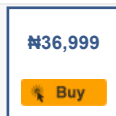
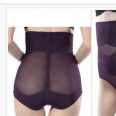
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