

Suspected thief lures trader to death in Warri

• Body exhumed at suspect's father's house

THE police in Delta State have arrested a suspected killer, Kingsley Agbaire, for allegedly luring a Port Harcourt trader, Lawrence Amaechi, to his death in Warri.

Agbaire was said to have contacted Amaechi, 51, on August 3, placing an order for Caterpillar spare parts.

He reportedly claimed the goods were to be delivered to an oil company in Warri.

Having done a similar business with Agbaire a few years back in Lagos, Amaechi was said to have carried about 34 parts of the Caterpillar equipment, valued at N2.3 million, to Warri, on August 4.

He was said to have boarded a bus from Rivers State at 3 pm and arrived in Warri, Delta State, at 6 pm.

Agbaire picked up the trader from the park at 9 pm.

It was gathered that Agbaire went to the bus station with a tricycle and took Amaechi to his (Agbaire's) father's house.

Amaechi was said to be communicating through text messages with his wife, Nneka Okoh.

It was also gathered that the businessman, who felt uncomfortable as the tricycle drove towards the house, told his wife about some 'strange faces' he saw.

Amaechi, it was learnt, met an old man at the house he was taken to, and the man told him several stories before he went to bed.

According to a relation, who

Precious Igbonwelundu

gave his name simply as Ejike, the businessman woke up on August 5, and spoke with his wife about his experience.

Ejike said: "He told her he slept well, and that he was preparing to leave Warri. Amaechi said he was waiting for Kingsley, who took some of the equipment to the company, to return. He planned to be at Port Harcourt by noon that day and was also in touch with her."

"Same Wednesday afternoon, the businessman spoke with his neighbour at the Caterpillar market at Olu-Obasanjo in Port Harcourt. It was the guy he collected some of the goods from. The man reportedly told Amaechi that if he was not paid by noon, he should bring the goods and return same day."

"But suddenly, his number stopped going through. His wife called the man, who claimed he had not seen him, and that she was calling a wrong number. Amaechi's wife became worried and called me. All through Wednesday and Thursday, no one could reach him."

"So, because some of the goods he took to Warri belonged to another trader, we went to the trader and he said he could identify his ware because they had serial numbers. Some calls were made and eventually, those same goods were found at a Caterpillar shop on MacDemott Road in Warri."



• The late Amaechi

"We invited the police, who arrested and interrogated the two buyers. They confirmed they bought the equipment from Agbaire. That was how he was arrested."

"He changed (his story) from saying he never saw him when he realised the suspect notified his wife of his movements and that the goods he sold had been found. He claimed they completed their transaction and that Amaechi left for Port Harcourt."

"At that point, the police believed something was fishy and he was detained."

"The buyers were brought before Kingsley at the Area Commander's Office in Warri, and they identified him as the seller. He did not deny. That was how he confessed that he killed the victim, that it was the work of the devil. He told us that he buried

Amaechi at his father's compound.

"Two persons carried out the evil act. The second person is Ochuko, who left for Ghana the next morning with the body parts severed from Amaechi. They severed his eyes, private part and kidney. Agbaire said he stabbed him with a bottle around 1 am on Wednesday."

"It was troubling news for us. I just do not understand how a human being could be that heartless."

"We got an order to ex-hume Amaechi's body ... on Wednesday and reburied it in his home at Ubulukwu."

The suspect allegedly poured faeces on Amaechi's grave to prevent people from going close to the area.

The suspect, who led detectives to the graveside, said his greed overpowered him.

served".

The party regretted that the governor had not purged himself of "reckless display of ignorance on matters that are taken for granted among the average educated Nigerians".

Noting that the governor's aberrant conduct was a blot on leadership integrity in modern democratic governance, Olatunbosun regretted that "once again, Fayose is embarrassing Ekiti people noted for knowledge and scholarship".

Expressing shock that the governor misunderstood emergency powers sought by Buhari as authority to act without recourse to the law to do anything, the party noted that Fayose was afraid of his shadow because of the strings of illegality in which he had involved himself.

Olatunbosun said: "It is shocking that a governor in Nigeria could display such ignorance on the meaning of emergency powers on the economy when such has always been part of mechanisms to fix the economy while in trouble."

"Former Heads of State and Presidents in successive administrations applied the same principle as a measure to stimulate the economy through massive allocations to capital expenditure to stimulate production for export and jobs creation."

"President Shehu Shagari did it in 1982 when he sought emergency powers to revamp the economy through 'Economic Stabilisation (Temporary Provisional) Act 1982 while Gen. Ibrahim Babangida applied same law for 15 months leading to the sadly misapplied Structural Adjustment Programme."

16 AWARDS, FELLOWS & SPOUSES LUNCH

