

Traditional ruler, 65, killed in Makurdi

*From ARCHIBONG
ESKENE, Makurdi*

A 65 years old traditional ruler, Chief Zaki Tyopeu Abaa in Makurdi, Capital of Benue State has been killed by assassins numbering about 10 who stormed his palace in a commando style, New Nigerian in Makurdi gathered.

The incident which, according to NN investigation, occurred in the early hours of Sunday, July 9, 2006 at Asase village, a suburb of Makurdi, came fully armed, making it possible for them to execute their mission uninterrupted.

Though the reason about his assassination was still scanty NN gathered that the late chief had a heated disagreement with his first wife and her children resulting in sending the wife and children parking from his compound.

NN gathered that the directive did not go down well with the children of the first wife (all girls) who allegedly

threatened their father if he dears send them parking.

NN source in the Asase village revealed that the long standing feud between the deceased, his wife and children was largely to the daughters presumed waywardness which was always a source of pain and worry to the late chief.

A source in the village told New Nigerian that about two months ago, it was gathered that the late traditional rule surmoned a meeting of their kindred with his wife's family and stated his position over their daughter who with her children were allegedly plotting to harm him.

NN was further told that he was however placated by his family who said that since their were children involved from the marriage, they should be given another chance to turn a new leaf.

Hardly has that peace

agreement settles down when the late chief raised an alarm during the burial of two elders son of Ikpan family last Saturday from where the deceased hailed from that his wife and daughters are plotting against him and should pack out of his palace and all pleas failed.

Barely 24 hours after sending them parking, New Nigerian gathered some person numbering about 10 bursted into the late chief's compound and went straight to his consolation room and shot him where he died instantly.

Meanwhile, about four person have been arrested including the late chief first wife and two of her daughters in connection with the murder.

When contacted on phone, the Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinado, confirmed the story and the arrest effected, adding that investigation was still going on.