

News

CLERIC IN POLICE NET OVER DEATH OF CO-PASTOR

From RAYMOND
TEDUNJAIYE, Lagos
A PASTOR named
Emmanuel Olayiwola of the

World Bible Evangelism
Church (WEBIC), founded
by Pastor Samson Ayorinde
and a new convert of the

church, are now in Police net
in Lagos, given account of
what they know about the
mysterious disappearance of

a co-pastor.

The deceased pastor,
identified as Abraham Sanni
and Olayiwola, both

worshippers at the national
headquarters of the church
located opposite Area "H"
command headquarters of the

Nigeria Police along Ogudu
road were said to have taken
one Anita Osakwe, the new
convert to Ogudu river, Ori-
Oke in Kosofe Local
Government Council Area for
baptism at about 9.00am on
Saturday, 9th, August, 2008.

The detainees, as reliably
gathered returned at about an
hour later without pastor
Sanni, alleging that he (Sanni)
was swept away by the
current of the river as he
attempted to conduct the
baptism exercise.

The Police Public Relations
Officer, Lagos State Command,
Mr. Frank Mba confirmed the
report in a bulletin made available
to journalists in his office.

Mba, a Deputy
Superintendent of Police
(DSP), told our correspondent
in a chat that the suspects are
being detained at the Ogudu
Police Station while
investigation into the case has
commenced.

He also added that the
corpse has been recovered and
deposited at a public mortuary
for autopsy.

Govt grounds Virgin Nigeria's operation at MMIA

THE Federal Government
has grounded Virgin Nigeria's
domestic operations at the
Murtala Mohammed
International Airport, Lagos
after the expiration of its
seven-day ultimatum to the
airline to move its domestic
flights from the international
wing of the airport.

At about 6:00am, security
agents stopped Virgin Nigeria
from operating its first flight
which was to depart Lagos for
Abuja at 7:00am. Virgin
Nigeria's domestic ticketing
operations were moved out of
the departure hall only those

for regional and international
operations were left behind.

Virgin Nigeria has said it
would start operations at
MMA2 tomorrow after it
had earlier insisted that it was
going nowhere, and Sir Richard
Branson, Chairman of the
Virgin Group, sought
President Yar'Adua's
intervention. It stated: "We
wish to inform our customers
that following the forced
closure of our domestic
operations at the Murtala
Mohammed International
Airport, our domestic flight
operations out of Lagos will

be suspended from Tuesday,
August 12 - Wednesday,
August 13, 2008.

"Our regional and international
flight operations will however
remain at the Murtala
Mohammed International
Airport, Lagos while domestic
flight operations between Abuja
to Kano and Abuja to Sokoto
routes will continue as
scheduled. "Our normal flight
operations will resume on
Thursday, 14 August 2008 from
the MMA2 domestic terminal.

We wish to apologise for
any inconvenience you may
experience as a result of this
suspension". Chairman of the
Virgin Group, Sir Richard

Branson, yesterday in a
statement asked the Federal
Government to respect the
terms of the agreement signed
with Virgin Atlantic Airways
on Virgin Nigeria in 2004. He
said: "The Nigerian
government asked Virgin some
years ago to set up a national
carrier for Nigeria that
Nigerians could put their trust
in and be proud of.

Virgin agreed to help enable
this to happen but made it clear
that they would only invest
considerable sums in Nigeria
under certain strict criteria.
"One of those was the ability
to operate domestic and
international flights out of the

same terminal which is the only
way a flag carrier of any
country can operate.

"To my utter dismay,
certain authorities in Nigeria
have chosen to ignore our
contract, sending in heavies a
few months ago to smash up
our domestic lounge with
sledgehammers, in an attempt
to intimidate the airline."

"I urge the President of
Nigeria and the authorities
concerned to honour their
contract and enable Virgin
Nigeria to resume flying
domestically with immediate
effect, giving the service to
their passengers that they've
come to rely on and expect.

FG restates commitment
to fight economic crimes