

Nine invited over death of Ilora high chief

By OLUWATOYIN MALIK

CRACK detectives from Zone Eleven of the Nigeria Police, Osogbo have waded into the alleged murder of a High Chief of Ilora, Chief Lawrence Itiade Owoade, the late Onisa of Ilora in Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State who was found hanging on the ceiling of his one storey building on his farm settlement road, Ilora on Thursday, November 20, 2014.

But his family members, who cried foul over the death, are alleging the murder of the late Chief.

Crime Reports learnt that detectives, who were in the ancient town on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, invited at least nine people, including two traditional worshipers simply identified as Sunday Aserifa and Ifalose, who allegedly partook in the

staggering discovery, they quickly rushed to the house of another businessman, Elder Francis Morakinyo Afolabi, who was a friend to the late Chief Owoade, before bringing the matter to the notice of Akibio of Ilora who later directed that the matter be reported to the police.

However, some members of his family who would not like their names in print who witnessed the removal of his body at the way alleged that the position in which the corpse was found and the torch light found on the table in the sitting room raised suspicion as to whether the late chief deliberately hung himself.

When contacted, the Balogun of Ilora, Chief Oyaniyi, confirmed that **Oba** Oparinde, chiefs and two heads of traditional worshipers were invited by



Late Chief Lawrence Owoade

the police to Osogbo.

Answering question on why late **Onisa** was quickly buried, Chief Oya-

nisi said that suicide was a taboo in the culture of the Ilora people, "When such a thing happens, the children of the deceased are forbidden from seeing his body. Certain rites must also be performed by traditional worshippers to wave the evil consequences of the suicide action off. This was why the Ifalose and Aserifa were involved in the process of burial," the Balogun said.

He hinted that the late **Onisa** had once taken poisonous substance which landed him in a hospital in Ibadan where he was treated and discharged.

Confirming the invitation story, the Police Public Relations Officer of Zone Eleven, Mr Sola Babalola, said that the case was being handled by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the zone. He said the investigation was as a result of a petition of threat to life written by one Elder Afolabi. "The issue of Chief Owoade's death

only came up during investigation," the Zonal PPRO added. He stated further that investigation was still ongoing on the case. According to him, "I know that some people have been invited for questioning, but I cannot tell you who and who have been here. The investigation is ongoing."

Crime Reports gathered that Elder Afolabi wrote a petition to the Inspector General of Police, Mr Solomon Arase; alleging threat to his life by some highly placed people in the town.

Afolabi, who was a close friend to the late Chief Owoade, said that some people had attempted to terminate his life like that of his late friend, stating further that he did not want to keep quiet so that he would not die like his friend.

Federal highway intercents suspected armed robbers.