

# I killed my wife because she beat me, man tells police

Ebiowei Lawal | Yenagoa

A 56-year-old man, Mr Christopher Chiabata, on Tuesday confessed to the police in Bayelsa State that he killed his 41-year-old wife in self-defence during a fight over money in their home at Onuebum community in Oghia Local Government Area of the state.

According to police report, Chiabata hit his wife with a pestle during the fight, and after realising that he had committed murder, he ingested Sniper insecticide to commit suicide before neighbours resuscitated and handed him over to the police.

Speaking to newsmen while being paraded by the police, Chiabata further explained that he was married to his wife for 30 years with five children, but they were always fighting because she had the habit of denying him access to the money they jointly generated from their farming business.

He said, "whenever we took our produce to the market, she would not give me account of the sales. For two years, she refused to give me account of the money we realised from the farm. So, one day, I called her to give me the account and when she refused, we started fighting until neighbours intervened."

"In anger, the next day I asked her to leave the farm business for me to handle. One day, when I returned from the farm, she had packed my things out of the house. That day, we fought again and neighbours, again, intervened."

"Fed up with this development, I asked her to pack out of the house the following

day, but she refused. Then, we started fighting at that point. She was stronger than me, so each time we fought, she would beat me up. So this time as she was beating me, out of anger, I hit her with a pestle.

"I was at that point she collapsed. Neighbours helped me to rush her to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital where she was confirmed dead. When I heard she had died, I took Sniper in an attempt to kill myself, but neighbours were quick to come around and took me to the hospital."

Also paraded by the police were members of a five-man gang that posed as environmental sanitation authority officials to kidnap and rob unsuspecting road users in the Yenagoa metropolis.

The suspects were arrested after kidnapping a staffer of the state Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning at their hideout in Gbarain community where they demanded ransom for her release.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mike Okoli, while addressing newsmen on Tuesday, said the suspects had confessed to the crime and that locally made revolver pistols with three live ammunition were recovered from them.

Following a tip-off, the operatives also arrested two suspects at Okaka, while transporting a truck load of 444 mattresses belonging to flood victims in the state to Kano State.

According to the police boss, further investigation led to the arrest of other suspects who sold the mattresses to them.