

Man kills roommate, sells body parts to pastor for rituals in Bayelsa

Ebiowei Lawal | Yenagoa

A 34-year-old man, Okpegboro (surname withheld), who hails from Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State, has allegedly killed his roommate in Sagbama town in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State and sold the vital organs to a pastor who is currently at large for ritual purposes.

A neighbour of both the suspect and victim who pleaded anonymity said Okpegboro invited the deceased, his friend, to come to Sagbama to join the motorcycle transport business, assuring him that the business was flourishing in the town because of the Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro College of

Education (IJBCE) sited there.

The source said when the deceased got to the town, he had barely spent two weeks when Okpegboro struck him with a *mortar pestle* in the middle of the night, crushing his skull and killing him in the process.

He further explained that "after the killing, Okpegboro dismembered the body, preserved the vital organs and put the other parts in separate sacks which he disposed in the early hours of the following day.

"However, while he was disposing the sacks, another neighbour who saw him and suspected his movements, confronted him later in the afternoon about the whereabouts of his roommate.

"The suspect claimed that

the deceased had travelled back to Delta State for an urgent business, but not satisfied with the response, the neighbour forced his way into the room and saw blood stains there. The neighbour then held him down and alerted local vigilante members who called the police to arrest the suspect.

"Upon interrogation before he was handed over to the police, the suspect confessed that he had sold the vital organs of his friend to a pastor in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, for ritual, adding that the pastor is currently at large."

Also commenting on the incident, the president of Salga Federated Youth Council Worldwide, Preye Keku Casey, in a statement, condemned the killing.

He said: "The decomposing body of the victim was discovered in the bush with several parts already butchered into pieces and placed in sack bags.

"The Nigeria Police, Sagbama Division was alerted and it led to the arrest of a young man resident in Sagbama Federated Community, suspected to have been the perpetrator of the ungodly act."

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Asinim Butswat, said: "The suspect, one 34-year-old **Okpegboro** (surname withheld), has been detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) for further investigation."

The police spokesperson said the name of the victim is yet to be known.