

Lagos sets up inquest to unravel cause of IVD's wife's death

Segun Kasali | Lagos

THE Lagos State government has ordered a coroner's inquest to ascertain the cause of death of Bimbo Ogbonna, wife of a popular Lagos auto dealer, Ikechukwu Ogbonna (alias IVD), who died recently following severe burns she sustained in a fire in her home.

The state Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo (SAN), gave the directive in a release made available to newsmen.

Mr Onigbanjo, in the statement, said thorough investigation would be carried out to ascertain the cause of death.

He added that findings of

the investigation would be made public in due course, while appropriate sanctions would be meted out to anyone found culpable.

"A coroner's inquest has immediately been requested, in line with sections 14 and 15 of the Coroners' Systems Law, Laws of Lagos State 2015, to determine the cause and circumstances of death.

"By Section 14(1)(d) of the Coroners' System Law of the State: 'A report of death shall be made to any of the agencies for the report of death or the office of the Coroner and be subject to post-mortem examination where there is reasonable cause to believe that the cause of death was: violent, unnatural or suspi-

cious.'

"Section 15(1) and (9) further enjoins the coroner to hold an inquest whenever he or she is informed that the death of the deceased person was in a violent, unnatural or suspicious situation or believes an inquest is desirable following the report of a reportable death," he said.

The commissioner noted that as a government, the security and wellbeing of citizens are of utmost importance, just as he assured the public that everything would be done to ensure that the cause of death is known.

He also charged the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) to assist the police and other

law enforcement agencies in investigating the case and ascertaining the cause of death of the late Bimbo Ogbonna, which has attracted wide media attention.

The Executive Secretary of DSVA, Mrs Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, also reiterated the state government's resolve to ensure perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence are brought to face the full wrath of the law.

Mrs Vivour-Adeniyi, in the statement, also urged residents to report cases of domestic and sexual violence cases to the DSVA office in Alausa, Ikeja.

The late Bimbo died on October 15 from the fire injuries she sustained in her matrimonial home.