

Debtor stabs pregnant woman to death in Ijebu Ode

Yemi Dalemo, Ijebu-Ode

A pregnant woman, Mrs. Oyindamola Titilayo, has been stabbed to death by her debtor in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.

The incident occurred at Oba Adetona Market, popularly called Oke Aje market at around 6.00pm on Monday.

Our correspondent learnt that the debtor had earlier owed the deceased a certain amount of money but absconded for many months before the woman could apprehend him at the market,

She reportedly sighted him on Monday and raised the alarm that attracted other people in the market to the scene.

The deceased was said to have grabbed the man and called on her mother, who also sells melon at the market, to assist her in recovering the money from

the man.

According to eyewitnesses, the deceased's attitude provoked the man, who brought out a knife from his pocket, stabbed the woman on her belly and the victim's mother, Mrs. Adenike Titilayo.

It was gathered that the debtor, also a trader at the market, owed the woman about N40,000.

The two women were taken to nearest the hospital where it was confirmed that the pregnant woman was carrying twins. She later died from the stab wounds.

Meanwhile, hoodlums numbering about 100, stormed the market thrice on Tuesday with guns, protesting the killing of the pregnant woman and her unborn babies.

They reportedly destroyed goods worth thousands of naira during the raids.

Pandemonium was said to have broken out when the hoodlums visited the market as people ran for safety while the market was temporarily thrown into confusion.

The hoodlums used the opportunity to steal goods and disposes people of their belongings.

Speaking to our correspondent, a community leader, Chief Moses Olaiya, said all quarter heads in Ijebu Ode were currently working with the security operatives to ensure a crime-free society.

He also called on the residents of the town to be vigilant and to report any strange movement around their area to the relevant security agency.

Edo appoints burial committee for Okosuns

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

THE Edo State Government has constituted a burial committee for the late music star, Evangelist Sunny Okosuns.

The state government said that the deceased had brought pride and honour to the state.

The Permanent Secretary of the state Ministry of Information and Culture, Mrs. Betty Igbeji, said this at a press briefing in Benin on Thursday.

According to her, the state Executive Council Committee is

headed by the Commissioner for Arts, Culture, Tourism and Special Duties, Dr. Patrick Ojebuoboh.

She also said that the committee would liaise with the Okosuns family and the national burial committee to organise the burial arrangements in the state.

Igbeji further debunked the insinuations that the state government was insensitive to the health of the late musician, saying that it made substantial contribution to the medical treat-

ment of Okosuns within and outside the country.

On education, the permanent secretary said the state Executive Council had approved an upward review of the monthly subvention to the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma by N10m; the College of Education, Ekiadolor, N10m; the School of Technology, Usen N4m; the College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi, N4m and the College of Education Igubeben, N2m.

She added that the state gov-

ernment would revive the Bendel Insurance Football Club to limelight, saying that Insurance FC that was recently relegated from the Premier League was not owned by the state government.

Igbeji also said that the state government had formally ratified the 15 per cent salary increase for the state workers that was recently announced by the state governor, adding that retiring permanent secretaries would now to go with their official cars.