

Son kills Anambra ex-commissioner

John Ameh, Onitsha

A former Commissioner for Women Affairs in Anambra State, Mrs. Uzo Obi-Okolo, has been shot dead in her family home in Awka, the state capital.

Uzo, who served in the administration of Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju, was allegedly killed in her bedroom by one of her sons on Monday.

She was also a director of the Orient Petroleum Resources, Nigeria's first privately-owned refinery sited in Anambra State.

The State Criminal Investigations Department, which investigated the circumstances surrounding her death, confirmed in Awka on Tuesday that her son was the principal suspect.

He was said to have fled the house, located on Achalla Road, Okpuno, Awka, after the incident. The woman ran an orphanage, "Mother Theresa Foundation and Tender Love Orphanage" in the town.

The motive for the killing is yet to be established, but the police said on Tuesday that the suspect escaped from the house in a Mercedes Benz 500 SEL after committing the act.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, SCID, Mr. Muhammed Katsina, who confirmed the incident, however, told journalists that the suspect had been arrested.

He said, "I received a signal from the Divisional Police Officer of "B" Division in Awka about the incident.

"When I received the signal, I mobilised my men and officers of the homicide de-

partment and I led them to the place. The security man at the gate allowed us in and we met one of the sons of the late woman who led us to the actual scene of the crime.

"I saw her in a stiff condition and in a pool of her own blood. So we conducted a step-by-step observation with the view to establishing the identity of the attacker.

"I was able to conduct some preliminary investigations that assisted me in drawing closer to the identity of the suspect.

"I picked other clues and we are still waiting for the Fo-

rensic Department of the Force Headquarters, CID Annex.

"I asked for the bedroom of the son from co-occupants and on observation, I recovered a very important clue that led us to classify the woman's son as the principal suspect."

He stated that the suspect, whose name he did not give, was later arrested in Lagos by detectives following an alert signal he sent out.

He added that he was being brought back to Awka but was yet to arrive as at the time he spoke with reporters.

Bakassi people softpedal on resettlement site

**Ofonime Umanah,
Calabar**

THE people of Bakassi have finally agreed to resettle at Ikang in Akpabuyo local government provided for them by the Cross River State Government.

This is coming less than 24 hours after the Paramount Ruler of Bakassi, Etinyin Etim Okon Edet, raised the alarm that his people were not favourably disposed to relocating to the area.

From the outset, the people had preferred to be resettled in the part of Akpabuyo, comprising Ikang South, parts of Ikot Nakanda and Edem Odo wards. This position was also reflected in the report of the sub-committee on the relocation, presented to the state Governor, Mr. Donald Duke, last week.

But another area, comprising Ikang North, Ikang Central and Ikang South wards, were added in the report. Incidentally, that was the area that was accepted by the government.

The report stated that "There is a strong desire by the majority of Bakassi traditional rulers, political elites and representatives to avoid Ikang North and Central at all costs for political reasons contained in their submission. There was no objection to this position by the Akpabuyo representatives."

On Monday, Okon spoke angrily as he told our correspondent that the relocation site was not acceptable to his people and that they would meet in Abana, the headquarters of the local government, on Tuesday to take a firm position on the matter.