

Five convicts executed in Enugu

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Enugu

FIVE convicts were, on Wednesday, executed at the Federal Prisons, Enugu, after spending many years waiting for the hangman's noose.

About 100 others are still expecting execution in the same prison.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that the five convicts who were executed had been on death row for several years before the order for their executions was granted a few weeks ago.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent in Enugu on Thursday, the state Comptroller of Prisons, Alhaji Lawal Razaq, confirmed the executions but said the details were not for "public consumption".

He said about 100 convicts were on death row for various offences ranging from murder to armed robbery and other heinous crimes.

He said the prison service would have executed the convicts but for the state governor who was yet to sign the execution order.

Razaq said, "The orders do come from the governor of the state where the convicts were convicted, and until the governor signs the order, nobody can execute them.

"He is the only authority that can direct that we execute them. You know that something that has to do with life should not be hurriedly or haphazardly done.

"We just have to give time, look into the rudiment of the conviction first before finally attesting to the execution or-

der."

The comptroller urged the government to exercise its prerogative of mercy by looking into the cases of those whose sentences could be commuted to life imprisonment.

He also asked that the government recommend those who merit hanging to be dealt with accordingly as a way to further decongest the prisons.

He charged the new Comptroller-General of

Prisons, Mr. Olusola Ogundipe, to visit all the prisons to have a first-hand experience of their needs which he said include the rehabilitation of cells, barracks and workshops.

Razaq said the government was yet to settle the N1 million debt the Enugu Prisons owes the Power Holding Company of Nigeria which was responsible for the blackout being experienced in the formation for the past seven months.

Man assaults landlord over asphalt

Waheed Bakare

THE Chairman, Adeboun Mosaku-Abeokuta Street Landlord Association, in Lagos, Mr. Daniel Osajare, on Thursday, alleged that he was assaulted by a man, simply identified as Segun, over a disagreement on asphalt removal from the old Ipaja Road.

According to Osajare, who spoke with our correspondent at **THE PUNCH** office, Lagos, the association had approached the Chairman of the Alliance for Democracy in Alimoso Local Government, Alhaji Babs Kareem, to facilitate the evacuation of the asphalt so that it could be used to fill potholes at Adeboun Mosaku-Abeokuta Street.

He said after the association's request was obliged by the contractor handling the road, a lorry also came to evacuate the asphalt.

Osajare said members of the association protested and after much argument, it was agreed that the lorry should go with the asphalt already loaded but should not return.

He explained that contrary to the agreement, the driver of the lorry returned and another round of argument ensued.

He alleged that Segun physically assaulted him while he lost his pair of glasses and wristwatch during the scuffle.

Osajare said he reported the case at Gowon Estate police station in company with some of his members and that the suspect has been arrested.

When contacted on the telephone, the police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, said he had not received the situation report from the station where the case was reported.