

Man hacks father to death over inheritance

The Ekiti State police command has mounted a manhunt for a 35-year-old man, Olu Benson, who allegedly hacked his septuagenarian father, Chief Egunlae Benson, to death on Wednesday in Ode-Okiti over the sharing of the family's estate.

Our correspondent learnt that the 78-year-old man was allegedly hacked to death by his son in front of family members and neighbours because of purported inequitable sharing of his property to his numerous children from seven wives. The late septuagenarian's widow, Mrs Victoria Benson, who witnessed the murder, said her late husband's son went wild after complaining bitterly that his father favoured some of his siblings in the sharing of his **expansive cocoa farms**.

According to Victoria, the son had directed her late husband to make public his will and had said in plain terms **what he wanted** for his own inheritance. The declaration, *Saturday Punch* gathered, forced the old man to call a family meeting, during which he allocated different aspects of his vast estate to his children, seven wives and the community.

But because Olu was not satisfied with what he got, he allegedly turned violent and threatened to kill the old man if he did not alter the will immediately. Benson's widow said Olu also accused his father of favouring his elder half-brother.

Villagers, who witnessed the incident, said they had to quickly send for the police. However, before the police arrived, the suspect had picked an axe and savagely attacked his aged father, decapitating him in the process. He later fled the village in a hired taxi, taking the alleged murder weapon along.

**Olamilekan Lartey,
Ado Ekiti**

Entreaties by neighbours to prevent the taxi from taking the suspect from the village failed and the policemen who eventually came to the scene were reportedly shocked by the gory sight of the dismembered body of the late Benson.

A senior police officer said investigations had begun and that detectives had interrogated many eyewitnesses. The traditional ruler of the town, the Odofin of Odolofin, Chief Adekunle Atoiki, said the family dispute had festered for long.

He said the moment someone brought a report of another violent outburst in the family, he quickly sent for the police. By Friday afternoon, there was still no trace of Olu, his wife, Funke, and their children.

The state Police Commis-

AC urges Nigerians to defend votes

Olayinka Oyeboode

Nigerians have been urged to turn out massively on April 14 and 21, 2007 to participate in the elections.

The Action Congress senatorial candidate for Lagos West, Ganiyu Solomon, who made the call at the party's state rally in Ojodu-Berger area of Lagos State on Friday, said that rather than sleep at home and regard both days as public holidays, Nigerians should go out, cast their votes and stay back to monitor them.

Solomon told thousands of AC supporters, "It is not enough to cast your votes. Stay back and monitor the counting so that your votes will count." Insisting that the

sioner, Mrs. Atinuke Koyi, who confirmed the incident to *Saturday Punch* on Thursday night, said the suspect's mother, Madam Abike Benson, was being questioned to ascertain her son's whereabouts.

Governorship ca

The running of Local Government elections in Lagos State was the main issue on Friday at the debate organised by Channels Television for four governorship candidates.

The four candidates - Hakeem Gbajabamila of the Alliance for Democracy; Mrs. Oluremi Adiiukwu-Bakare, Progressive Peoples Alliance; Mrs. Uche Ibukun Ohimai, Fresh Democratic Party; and Senator.

Tokunbo Afikuyomi, All Nigeria Peoples Party - agreed that government at the local government level needed to be

country would fare better under an AC-controlled government at the state and national levels, Solomoro said it was important for the people to reject any form of manipulation during the poll.

Other AC leaders in the local council development area, including the Chairman, Abiodun Faleke; the LCDA's party chairman Alhaji Sola Ashiru; the party's House of Representative candidate, Mr Bayo Odunlami; and the candidate for House of Assembly, Mr Lola Akande, took turns to address the crowd on the need to defend their votes on the election days.

US alerts Nigerians

Emeka Madunagu

The United States Government on Friday warned Nigerians over the emergence of drug-resistant

strains of tuberculosis, saying more effort was needed to tackle the scourge.

I've no godfather - Oshiomhole