

# 10 die, 20 hospitalised after gbegiri soup

**Tunde Odesola, Osogbo**

**A**BOUT 10 persons died while 20 others hospitalised after eating a bean soup delicacy, *gbegiri*, and *amala* at a burial ceremony in Ede on Sunday.

Investigations by our correspondent showed that the burial ceremony, which involved two families, took place on Obada State.

A relative of a victim, who was simply identified as Akeem, wept uncontrollably when Akeem was confirmed dead in the hospital just as the relatives of a female oil dealer wept inconsolably upon learning about the death of the dealer.

Grieving relatives besieged Prime Hospital, Cottage Hospital and General Hospital, all in Ede, where the victims were rushed to.

Among those confirmed dead were two pregnant women; three young men, three ladies and some children.

Speaker, Osun State

House of Assembly, Mr Adejare Bello, who hails from Ede, said he has mobilised the state Commissioner for Health, Mr Lanre Afolabi, and medical personnel from Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, and General Hospital, Osogbo, to Ede.

Confirming the story, Police Public Relations

Officer, Osun State, Mr Joshua Olayemi, said the police have moved into the town to forestall breakdown of law, following the crisis.

Bello said, "We are doing everything to bring the situation under control. I learnt that five persons have been confirmed dead. I also learnt that the incident occurred as a result of bean soup eaten at the party.

"I suspect that the beans used to make the soup had undergone poisoning from the North, where it was purchased. We don't want the situation to degenerate."

Many of the victims, who had left the venue of the ceremony, did not make it to their houses as they slumped along the way.

Speaking under

anonymous condition, another indigene of Ede, who was at the party, said he had requested for the soup but was told that it has finished.

He said, "May be I would have been dead by now. I actually requested for the soup but the lady that was serving said it was finished. I had to eat my *amala* with only *ewedu*."

## Descendants seek to void Alake's appointment

**Ademola Oni,  
Abeokuta**

**A**LMOST three years after the appointment of Oba Adedotun Gbadebo as the Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egba Land, the descendants of Laarun have continued their case at the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta, seeking to void the appointment.

A representative of the family, Chief Adewunmi Adefolu, who testified before Justice Olatokunbo Olopade on Friday, claimed that the Okukenu family, where Oba Gbadebo had his root,

became the Alake around 1853 by default.

Adefolu had instituted the case on the premise that after the demise of Oba Oyeade Lipede in 2005, the Laarun family was supposed to produce the town's monarch.

The petitioner, under examination by his family's counsel, Chief Victor Odunaiya, admitted that there were two ruling houses in Egba Alake, Jibodu and Laarun, which had been producing kings for the town since 1853.

Adefolu said, "In 1853, a missionary, Henry Townsend, advised the Egba chiefs to

produce a king among them. He said the absence of a king had been responsible for the spate of attacks on them.

"They decided that Loshi, from the Laarun family, should be the king.

"Loshi Sogulu died while he was under the care of Okukenu in the Igbebi (place of preparation for kingship).

"Subsequently, Okukenu the first was asked to be the king. He became the king because of the demise of Loshi."

The book, History of Abeokuta by A. K. Ajisafe

in 1964 and a report by Major Blaire, Intelligence Report 1937, where the contention of Adefolu were derived, were admitted as exhibits.

While under cross examination by the counsel to the Alake, Chief Adebisi Fadairo, the petitioner went short of saying that the Okukenu family never belonged to the ruling houses.

He, however, did not mention Okukenu, which had produced three Alakes before the incumbent, among the nine 'branches' of the two ruling families in Ake.