

# Police hunt driver over Frenchman's death

ADEMOLA ONI

**T**HE police in Ogun State have begun a manhunt for a driver attached to a French expatriate with Lafarge

Cement WAPCO Nigeria Plc, Mr. Christian Pelarmorgues, who was killed by unknown assailants on Monday.

The bullet-ridden body of Pelarmorgues, who until his death was the Director of Engineering of the Lakatabu project, the new

mega cement plant of the firm, was found on Monday evening between Arigbajo, Ifo and Ewekoro.

A police source told our correspondent on Friday in Abeokuta that the command had begun a manhunt for the driver, who escaped from custody after

his initial arrest.

The wanted driver whose name could not be ascertained, the source added, was the person who drove the French national on Sunday before the incident.

The source, who craved anonymity, said, "We are on

the trail of the expatriate's second driver. The one who drove him the day he was killed has been invited and interrogated. But the second driver, who drove the man on Sunday, a day before he was murdered, is currently at large.

"His guarantor was invited and directed to produce him, which was done. But some people in the company, where he was taken to, were not on the alert and the man escaped. So, his arrest is crucial and we are sure we will get him."

Our correspondent learnt on Friday that though the Criminal Investigation Department had

commenced a probe into the case, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hashimu Argungu, had taken over the investigation.

Already, Argungu has visited the scene of the incident as the company's premises at Ewekoro.

The management of the company has also called for the assistance of the state government and the police in tracking down the expatriate's killers.

The firm's Country Manager, Mr. Jean-Christophe Barbant, made the appeal when he visited Governor Gbenga Daniel on Friday.

Barbant, who said the incident was unfortunate, however, warned that if the development was not checked, it could affect both business and social relationships among the people.

He said, "Something like this is not what we want, but it can still be found in some other multinational companies. We will plead with the government to help us in tracking down those who caused this, in order to restore the people."

He also implored security agencies to ensure that the killers were found and brought to book.

Daniel promised that the state would assist the police to find the killers.

## NIS nabs suspected human trafficker

CHUKWUDI AKASIKE

**T**HE Nigerian Immigration Service in Akwa Ibom State has apprehended a middle-aged woman suspected to be involved in human trafficking.

The woman, identified as Mrs. Veronica Okon Gall, was arrested on Friday by the Monitoring/Surveillance unit of the NIS.

Speaking with our correspondent in Uyo, the NIS State Comptroller, Mr. William Park, said the suspect was apprehended in one of the motor parks in Uyo while attempting to traffic one Miss Kate Solomon, who hails from Oron Local Government Area.

Park, who described the state as a transit and destination point for human trafficking, said that the victim, a 15-year-old girl, was rescued in the process.

He explained that Gall was Lagos-bound with her victim when she was

### •Rescues 15-year-old girl

Chisco Park in Oron and our investigation revealed that they came into Nigeria from Togo and were moving to Lagos. We learnt that their destination before they were arrested was Gabon,"

Park stated.

He, however, noted that the NIS in the state would have been able to cover more areas where human trafficking flourished if adequate logistics were on

the ground.

Park pointed out that the service was lacking enough vehicles to go after suspects, appealing to the government to support the NIS in eliminating human trafficking in the state.



•L-R: Head Consultant of Metro Media Communications Ltd., Mike Nzeagwu; National Marketing Manager, Seven-Up Bottling Company Plc, Mr. Mani Siddhartha; and the Group Account Director, Insight Communications, Sam Osunsoko, at a press briefing to announce "A Millionaire everyday for 70 days" promo by Seven-Up Bottling Company Plc in Lagos ... recently