

Evangelist kills wife, four-week-old baby

CHUKWUDI AKASIKE

CONFUSION is the situation report in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State as a 35-year-old evangelist, Mr. Brown Batta, allegedly killed his four-week-old son and wife.

The young man *SUNDAY PUNCH* also gathered moments after killing his wife and child equally killed himself.

• Commits suicide

Residents of Nung Anya Street in Uyo are still confused over what would have made Batta embark on the killing spree.

The incident, our correspondent learnt, took place last Tuesday.

Narrating the ugly episode to *SUNDAY PUNCH*, on Friday, the landlord of No. 23, Nung Anya Street, where all the deceased were living before their death, Mr. James Atakpa, said the incident came

to him as a shock.

Atakpa described Batta as a gentleman, who was known as an evangelist and wondered why he decided to carry out the gruesome act.

The landlord explained that he had already gone to bed after taking his medication on the fateful day when he heard a scream within his compound.

"Initially, I thought armed robbers had struck, but when I eventually came out, I saw a

crowd gathered in front of my house. I later saw some people forcing the door to Batta's room open.

"When that was done, what happened was something I could not stand to behold. I was later told that one of my tenants had killed his four-week-old baby, his wife and himself.

"I am very ill as you can see and that was why I left the scene of the incident so that it will not worsen my condition. The man and his baby were found dead with blood stains

all over the place," Atakpa stated.

He added that the evangelist's wife, who was initially breathing was rushed to the hospital, where she later died the following day after losing so much blood.

Atakpa said he was told by those at the scene that Batta stabbed his wife before hitting the head of the baby against the wall.

He also disclosed that Batta was found lying helplessly on the floor with deep laceration on his neck, while a part of his stomach was ripped open.

He said the woman's brother, who was shocked on hearing the incident, immediately called in the police, who came in and took the corpses away.

Speaking on the matter, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Walter Rugbere, described the incident as an open and closed matter, adding that after investigation, it was alleged that Batta killed his wife, baby before committing suicide.

Rugbere added that some people alleged that Batta took the action when he suspected that his wife was cheating on him.

"There is nothing we can do about it because the man that was at the centre of the whole incident has already killed himself. It is an open and close case," the police commissioner stated.

It's too late to form mega party – ANPP

CHUKWUDI AKASIKE

AHEAD of the 2011 poll, the All Nigeria Peoples Party has said that the formation of the proposed mega party is too late and unnecessary.

Some politicians in the opposition had thought that it was only through such arrangement that the ruling Peoples Democratic Party could be ousted in forthcoming general elections.

The Akwa Ibom State Chairman of the party, Mr. Paul Bassey, explained that the primaries in some political parties would begin before the end of this year and

wondered when candidates of the mega party would be ready for campaigns.

Bassey, who spoke with our correspondent on Friday, expressed surprise that politicians only made noise about such arrangement without any concrete plan towards achieving it.

"They (politicians) have been talking on this mega party issue for a long time and we have less than seven months to the primaries. Is it possible for a mega party to be formed now? The answer is no," Bassey stressed.

He, however, advised that rather than wait for a mega party that might not come, it was better for the opposition to embrace alliance.

He argued that the PDP

would be defeated in the next general election if other political parties come together to form an alliance.

Bassey said, "The mega party cannot work. What I am advocating is for the other political parties to form an alliance. It is too late to be talking about forming a mega party now."

On the exit of Maj. Gen. Mohammadu Buhari, the ANPP presidential flagbearer in 2003 and 2007 elections from the party, Bassey said his departure would not affect the success of the party in the forthcoming elections.

He maintained that Buhari was free to leave the party, adding that his exit will not remove anything from the

ANPP.

Bassey called on the National Assembly to consider the endorsement of independent candidature in the country, saying Nigerians were interested in electing individuals with proven integrity and not political parties.

He predicted that the party would capture power in 2011, insisting that preparation was in top gear for the party to win at all levels.

Expressing sadness over the state of the nation, Bassey said the ANPP would meet in April to map out winning strategies that would make it unseat the PDP and work towards the development of the country.