

Saturday. Photo: Goke Famadewa

Police detain wife over five family members death

SAMUEL AWOYINFA

THE first wife of the late Mr. Aliu Adeoye, who died with his second wife and three children on Friday in Temidire community, in Sabo area of Abeokuta, has been detained in police headquarters, Eleweran, in Ogun State.

Adeoye, who was said to be a surveyor, died of suspected poisonous gaseous substance in a room with other victims, in his six-room bungalow at No 3, Ireti Akinbode Street in Abeokuta.

Some neighbours of the deceased had wanted to lynch the first wife on Friday, who they suspected was responsible for spraying the room with the poisonous substance, but she was rescued by the policemen from the nearby Ilupeju Divisional headquarters.

When our correspondent visited the community on Saturday, the neighbours insisted the first wife should be held responsible for these unfortunate deaths.

However, the only tenant in the house, Mr. Egbebi Abiose, survived the incident but he was still receiving treatment at an undisclosed private hospital in Abeokuta on Saturday.

CRIME

The acting chairman, Temidire Community Development Association, Mr. Taofiq Akanni, confirmed that there was constant quarrel in the family of Adeoye.

Theodore Orji is a chameleon — Orji Kalu

BAYO AKINLOYE

A former Abia State governor, Orji Kalu, has lambasted the current governor of the state, Theodore Orji, for allegedly attempting to damage his reputation, describing him as a chameleon.

In an opinion piece on his Facebook page, posted on Saturday, Kalu claimed his successor had made several attempts to portray him in bad light.

According to Kalu, the incumbent governor has told many lies about him to many people including President Goodluck Jonathan. He said further that the governor had turned attacks against him into a pastime.

The former governor said, "I must openly submit that I was taken in by his facial appearance, not knowing that deep inside he was a different person all together — a chameleon. Subsequent events have since proved me right. Up till this moment, I still do not believe that it was the

He told our correspondent that some members of the community had to settle a rift in the family last Sunday.

The Police Public Relations officer in the state, Mr. Muiywa Adejobi, said the first wife was currently

being kept in police custody at Eleweran for two reasons.

Adejobi said, "The woman is with us for two reasons. The mob that gathered at the community after the incident wanted to lynch her. Again, she was accused of being the one

who sprayed the gaseous substance into the room, where the victims died.

"We cannot ascertain the cause of death for now. There are allegations here and there but the police will do what needed to be done."

POLITICS

same Theodore Orji, whom I met at Chief Mark Uka Ogwo's house that is hauling abuses at me on a daily basis and walking the corridors of power like a colossus. He calls me all kinds of names and uses every available medium to castigate my person.

"(He) is hauling abuses at me on a daily basis and walking the corridors of power like a colossus. He calls me all kinds of names and uses every available medium to castigate my person. His speech at every public or private event begins and ends with my name, as if he has no other business in governance other than to abuse Orji Kalu. Not only that: he goes about telling all kinds of naked lies in order to soil my reputation. He also goes to gossip to the President and his wife about me, telling them unprintable things, just to disfavour me.

"He tells anybody he encounters — businessmen and women, politicians, the

clergy, traders, farmers, drivers, carpenters, bricklayers, the high and mighty, lowly people, and just anybody — that I am his sworn enemy. He also takes his campaign of hate against me to the Diaspora. The situation is really getting out of hand."

Speaking further on the Abia State governor's efforts to malign him, Kalu alleged that Orji had men stationed at his homes in Abia, Abuja and Lagos to watch and take note of people who visit him. The reason, the ex-governor asserted, was to punish the visitors."

He urged the current Abia governor to publicly state the reasons for attacking his person, saying he was willing to apologise if guilty.

Kalu said, "I have challenged him on a number of occasions to tell the world what really I did to him to warrant such detestable behaviour and enmity towards me. And if in the end I am guilty, I will apologise. I repeat the challenge through this column. Let him go to

any national television and tell the whole world what I did to him to make him hate me with such venom. I have wondered why he has suddenly realised that I am such a bad person. Why did he not resign as my Chief of Staff if he knew I was a bad person as he would want Nigerians to believe?"

Efforts made to get the reactions of the Abia State Government were unsuccessful as calls put to the cell phone of the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Dr. Eze Chikamnayo, did not go through.

However, a source close to government, who pleaded for anonymity, said Orji Kalu should be ignored as he was "desperately looking for ways to disparage the person of the incumbent governor who has through his legacy projects across the state dwarfed Kalu's eight-year tenure."

The source added that the state government would react to Kalu appropriately at the right time.