

Samson Folarin

Hoodlums kill Ogun

SOME suspected land thugs have killed the manager of Touch of Glass, Mr. Muftau Akinyemi, in the Ajagboju area of the Ado-Odo Farm Settlement, Ogun State.

The 54-year-old Ipokia, Ogun State indigene was hacked to death on Saturday, September 16, around

9.30am when the hoodlums attacked him with an axe on a farmland allocated to the firm.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Touch of Glass, a member of the Agbe-Lagba Multipurpose Cooperative Society, got some parcels of land from the Ogun State Government through the Ministry of

Agriculture as part of efforts by the government to increase agricultural activities in the state.

However, farmlands in the community were said to have been a subject of controversy as some land thugs, who laid claim to them, had been unleashing mayhem on farmers.

The Secretary of the Agbe-Lagba society, Mr. Lawon Jagundina, said letters written to the state government and the police to forestall tragedy were unheeded, which culminated in the killing.

He said, "On Saturday, September 16, around 9.30am in the Ajagboju area



• Ikorodu General Hospital

Photos: File

disciplined. I want to discuss with the board (panel) this week on those indicted for one or two things. We will discipline them, but we need to be thorough in case the people decide to go to court."

Onunkwo, who was the head of the diocese, was kidnapped on Friday, September 1, 2017, at Banana Junction, Amaifeke, Orlu.

The following day, his corpse was found in Omuma, in the

manager on govt farmland

of Ado-Odo Farm Settlement, belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ogun State, some hoodlums attacked and killed Akinyemi, a full-time farmer and manager of Touch of Glass. Touch of Glass is a member of the Agbe-Lagba Cooperative Multi-purpose society.

"The man was killed by two assailants who are well known in this community. They have been sending threat messages to us and asking us to leave the land despite knowing that the land was given to us by the government for farming. I am one of their targets and since the death of Akinyemi, I have become afraid for my life and safety."

PUNCH Metro learnt that the 29 hectares of land was acquired by the old Western Region in 1959/1960 until the creation of Ogun State in 1976.

The state was reported to have allocated the land to the Agbe-Lagba society in 1991.

However, in 2004, some thugs allegedly laid claim to the land and started attacking the farmers who ran to the government for succour.

A poultry farmer and former principal of the deceased, Chief Isaiah Akinsowon, said the killing of Akinyemi had created fear in farmers in the settlement.

He urged the government to intervene and arrest Akinyemi's killers.

He said, "I also own a parcel of land in the place, but mine is about 500 metres away

from Akinyemi's farm. We were called that he had been attacked and killed and by the time we got to the place, we met his corpse. He was hacked with an axe.

"With this killing, nobody wants to return to the farm. I am afraid to go to my poultry farm as well. It is unfortunate we had to get to this point because if our series of complaints to the government had received urgent attention, this would not have happened. We are begging the government and law enforcement agents to take urgent action. They should get the perpetrators of this crime."

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident, adding that a suspect had been arrested.

He said, "The man was killed on Saturday on a farmland. A man who is strongly linked to the crime has been arrested. The Commissioner of Police, Ahmad Iliyasu, has directed that the suspect should be transferred to the Homicide Section of the



• Akinyemi

Photo: Samson Folarin