

I. E. Ekwo of the High Court in Lagos on November 31, but another judge dismissed the charges against the defendants, which took the same judge

a teacher in the school, Dare Samuel Olutope.

The prosecution accused the five defendants of

In the additional counts, the police accused the defendants of fraudulently registering Ademola and

judge re-affirmed the bail he earlier granted them.

Justice Ekwo fixed February 12 for trial.

## Ex-Chief of Defence Staff, Alex Badeh, murdered

Eniola Akinkuotu and Adelani Adepegba

**A** former Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh (retd.), has been killed.

It was gathered that the retired military officer was killed on the Abuja-Keffi Expressway on his way back from his farm.

He was said to have been shot along with his driver on Tuesday.

Until his death, he was standing trial for alleged diversion of funds meant for arms purchase.

The Director of Public Relations and Information of the Nigerian Air Force, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, confirmed the incident in a statement.

"It is with a heavy heart that I regretfully announce

the unfortunate demise of a former Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh (retd.), who died today, December 18, from gunshot wounds sustained when his vehicle was attacked while returning from his farm along the Abuja-Keffi Road.

"On behalf of officers, airmen and airwomen of the Nigerian Air Force, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, commiserates with the family of the late former Chief of Defence Staff over this irreparable loss.

"We pray that the Almighty God grant his soul eternal rest," the statement read.

The late Badeh, who was 61 years, was commissioned into the Nigerian Air Force in 1979.

He was born in Vintim, in the Mubi Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

He attended the Vintim

Primary School. Vintim and went on to obtain his secondary school certificate from the Villanova Secondary School in 1976 before proceeding to the Nigerian Defence Academy.

Badeh was admitted into the Nigerian Defence Academy as a member of the 21 Regular Course on January 3, 1977, and was commissioned as Pilot Officer on July 3, 1979.

The retired military officer was promoted Air Vice Marshal on January 3, 2008.

He was appointed Chief of Air Staff by President Goodluck Jonathan in October 2012 and was appointed Chief of Defence Staff in April 2014.

Badeh was being tried by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission for allegedly diverting billions of naira meant for weapons, an allegation he denied until his death.

adequately utilised. But, we must constantly remember that use of ICT in elections is a means to an end, and not an end in itself."

In his opening remarks, Obasanjo hinted that the meeting aimed at reviewing electoral systems in Africa, especially inputs, processes and output/outcomes.

He said the meeting was also meant to examine the strengths and weaknesses in the use of ICT in electoral systems in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

He said, "This meeting on the election process is within the framework of the pillar of politics. Deficit in the election process will translate to deficit in politics (and vice versa) which in turn will impede sound governance, a much sought-after element in the development of Africa.

"During the course of this meeting, we will be addressing one of the key issues that is at the heart of credible elections in Africa - Information and Communication Technology and the election process."