

employed the services of one Olarewaju John, to convey 30 tonnes of powdered milk from No. 13 Fatai Atere Way,

elements threatening the security of the state and the nation at large.

Mu'azu, who said the

policemen.

He said tough time awaited those who choose the path of crime in the state.

Hoodlums behead businessman in Rivers

Sampson Itode, Port Harcourt

SOME hoodlums beheaded a middle-aged businessman, identified simply as Chima, on Wednesday in the Rumuekini community in the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

It was gathered that the victim was shot before being beheaded by his assailants in the presence of his wife.



• Rivers State CP, Usman Bebel

An eyewitness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stated that the incident

happened around 11pm, adding that the killers switched off the victim's generator in order to lure him out of his apartment.

It was gathered that the victim came out to check why the generator suddenly went off and was accosted by the hoodlums, who shot him.

The source said, "The incident is shocking. Last night (Wednesday), Chima sat outside with his brothers and friends at a pub on the school road.

"Later around 11pm, we heard that he was attacked in his house. We heard that the killers switched off his generator and when he went outside to find out what happened to the generator, he was attacked.

"Immediately he came out, the boys shot him. He managed to run back into his apartment, but the boys followed him and cut off his head."

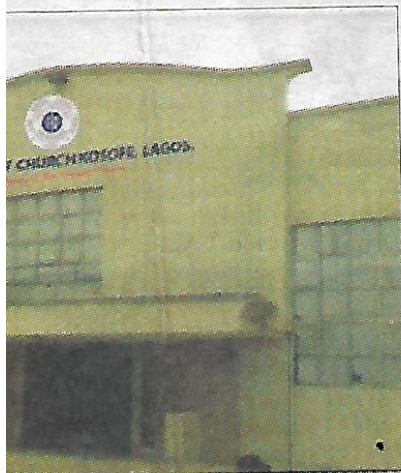
Another source explained that the hoodlums ordered the deceased's wife to bring a kitchen knife after they had killed her husband.

It was learnt that the gunmen used the kitchen knife to sever his head and ordered the wife to carry the head in a bucket into a waiting car before they sped off.

Chima's killing occurred despite Governor Nyesom Wike's vow to sanction local government chairmen and traditional rulers, who condone criminality in their domains.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in Rivers State, Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the incident.

ays businesswoman port



ofe, Lagos

Photo: File

whatsoever.

"Very significant also is that the members of the land committee had called the woman on several occasions inviting her for a meeting to update her, but she rebuffed the calls."

However, after the report, the First Baptist Church gave Odetunde a cheque, which was not honoured by the bank, but it later transferred the sum of N445,000 into her Polaris Bank account.

Efforts to reach the church to confirm the development were frustrated by the chairman of the land committee, who refused to speak with our correspondent.

An elated Odetunde, who could not contain her joy, commended *The PUNCH* for helping to get her money.

She said, "This is to show my appreciation to *PUNCH Metro*. If we can get three to four newspapers that can be doing such things, Nigeria will be better than this. You help the underprivileged people to fight for their rights without asking for money.

"I have been telling people about your office that the only thing you demand from people is the truth and nothing more. What I could not do for the past 11 years, you did it within one month. Once more, I say thank you to *PUNCH Metro*, I really appreciate you."

church set up a committee, which made a bulk purchase of land for the interest of her members.

"Mrs Odetunde, having heard about the church's effort, got herself introduced to the church through a member. She then paid the sum of N400,000 for two plots of land.

"Unfortunately, the land transactions were hampered by court judgments against the original landowners, thus necessitating the ratification of the land by the church with the new ones.

"It is important to state categorically and emphatically that the church did not and would never swindle any person for any amount