

Okowa orders probe as police van kills Delta woman, daughter

Dele Ogunyemi, Warri

DELTA State Governor, Dr. Neanyi Okowa, has ordered an immediate investigation into Wednesday's death of a woman and her daughter in Warri axis of the state.

This was contained in a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Olisa Ifeajika, in Asaba.

According to him, the sad news of the death of a woman and her daughter in a rather bizarre circumstance in Warri on Wednesday is quite unfortunate and disheartening.

The governor condoled with the deceased's family on the loss of their loved ones, and assured them that everyone involved in the processes that led to the incident would be brought to book.

He called on Deltans, especially the people of Warri to remain calm, law-abiding and allow the government and law enforcement agencies to take necessary steps to address the situation.

The governor also charged the police to ensure that law and order prevailed in the area.

A police Hilux patrol van chasing suspected Internet fraudsters, otherwise known as 'yahoo boys', allegedly crushed a mother and her daughter to death at PTI Junction in Effurun, Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State on Wednesday, thus causing pandemonium within the area.

The PUNCH gathered that the police team from Ebrumede Division had chased the suspected 'yahoo boys' from PTI Road down to the spot of the unfortunate incident when it hit

a commercial tricycle popularly known as 'keke' conveying a woman and her child.

Witnesses said both the woman and her child died on the spot while the tricycle operator and other passengers sustained varied degrees of injuries.

Infuriated by the incident, an angry mob set the police Hilux ablaze just as people ran helter-skelter in panic.

The Police Public Relations Officer for Delta State Command, Onome Onowwakpoyeya, when contacted, told journalists that the incident was being investigated as she was in contact with the Divisional

Deeper Life College alleged sexual molestation case begins behind closed doors

Patrick Odey, Uyo

THE Magistrate Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, has commenced proceeding into juvenile case in the ongoing Deeper Life School crisis.

The proceedings were held behind closed doors.

The Secretary of the court, who did not mention her name, said since the matter was a juvenile case, nobody would be accepted to participate in the proceedings except the parties involved in the matter.

Recall that the police command in the state had arraigned seven persons, including minors, in connection with the alleged sexual molestation and maltreatment of one Don-Davis Archibong, a student of Deeper Life High School, Uyo two weeks ago.

The minors were charged

Police Officer.

"They are still trying to find out what happened. So, we want to know what really happened," the PPRO told newsmen.

Also, the Warri Area Commander of the Nigeria Police Force, Mohammed Argungun, in a telephone interview, said he was on his way to ascertain the enormity of the incident.

However, the PPRO later in the evening issued a comprehensive statement to shed light on the sad incident.

The statement titled, 'Police not involved in the unfortunate incident that led to the death of a woman and a child' read in part, "The accident involved

a Mercedes tipper with Reg. No. WWR 425 ZR loaded with granite, a Toyota Camry car with Reg. No. AKD 403 FM and a tricycle; Reg. No. yet unknown, all moving in the same direction and a police vehicle was never involved.

"Two passengers conveyed by the tricycle; a woman and a baby girl, died on the spot and other passengers were injured. The Delta State Police Command deeply sympathises with the families of the deceased and the injured persons and equally frowns on the unjust treatment meted on police officers who went to rescue the victims by members of the public."

for unlawfully assaulting Don-Davis Archibong punishable under section 218(1) of the Criminal code, cap.38, vol.2 Laws of Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria, 2000, including section 362(1) of the Laws of Akwa Ibom State.

Counsel for the plaintiff, David Okokon, told newsmen shortly after proceedings on Wednesday that the court followed the standard of proceedings obtainable globally in the juvenile case, adding that it was the reason journalists were not allowed to participate.

Okokon explained that the mother to the molested boy only gave her part of the story equivalent to what she had told the press, adding that the court later admitted her statement to the police as evidence.

"Ordinarily, the court had warned that parties should not address the media because they

want to allow the proceedings to be in the walls of the court on its merit, so that lawyers will not talk in and out of the matter and then confuse the public," he said.

Also, the counsel for the defendant, Nojin Tairu, said, "By standard like this, when you have started a proceedings, you are not allowed to be making comments about the nitty-gritty of the matter. But I need to explain this to you so that we do not run foul of what is the standard practice everywhere in the world."

"At the end of the proceedings, you will have all the fact and all that transpired in the court. I can assure you that at the end the proceedings, journalists would have the whole revelation regarding the matter," he added.

The case was, however, adjourned to February 10, 2021 for continuation of hearing.