

Villagers protest as Rivers

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

FAMILY and friends of a middle-aged man, Justice Ogbuehi, have been thrown into mourning after a member of the Emohua Local Government Vigilante Service allegedly shot him dead at his father's residence in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Ogbuehi was assisting his mother to process cassava at his father's residence when members of the vigilante group stormed the premises and shot him dead.

After perpetrating the crime, the local security men fled the scene but Ogbuehi's mother, who was shocked by the development, raised the alarm.

Upon getting wind of the tragic development, members of the community including the victim's elder brother, Augustine, staged a protest to express their grievances and called for the scrapping of the vigilance group reportedly set up by the Chairman of the LGA, Dr Chidi Lloyd.

Augustine, while lamenting over the tragedy that befell his



• The protesters

brother as he led protesters to the Cool/Wazobia/Info FM's media house, claimed Ogbuehi recently passed out from the Nigeria Navy training school.

Speaking to newsmen, Augustine said Ogbuehi was processing cassava at home when one of the members of the vigilance group that stormed the

premises allegedly shot him dead.

The aggrieved brother said, "Members of the EMOLVIS of Emohua Local Government Area just drove into our community in

vigilante shoots man to death

Oduoha. I don't know who they were pursuing. But what we just saw was our brother who was helping his mother to fry Garri, they just shot him without any interrogation.

"We are crying; we don't know what to do. We came here to report what members of the EMOLVIS had done to us. Let the local government and the state hear it. Even the Federal Government should hear it. Let justice prevail. That is what we want. The Oduoha clan is crying because of the death of this boy."

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations, Grace Iringekoko, confirmed the incident.

"Yes, we are aware of the incident. An investigation is ongoing," she said.

Also speaking on the incident, Lloyd condemned the killing of the victim and ordered the police and the joint taskforce to immediately commence an investigation.

He said vigilance members had no right to carry arms, adding that any vigilance member found culpable at the end of the investigation would face the law.

"If/after investigation it is discovered that someone who is

not authorised to bear arms is the cause of the death, of course,

the full weight of the law will be brought to bear," Lloyd said.

Slain cop: Navy says ratings will be court-martialed

Amarachi Okeh

THE Nigerian Navy, on Tuesday, said the errant ratings involved in the alleged killing of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hezekiah Abiona, in the Satellite Town area of Lagos State, would soon be court-martialed.

This development came after the slain cop's son, Benjamin, and wife, Esther, accused the naval authorities of feigning ignorance of their anguish after the ratings, Onyekachi Egwin and Nnamani Anointing, allegedly stabbed their breadwinner to death in the line of duty.

They also said the investigation into the case was going at snail's speed, arousing suspicion that the naval authorities were trying to sweep the case under the carpet.

However, the spokesperson for the Nigerian Navy, Commodore Adedotun Ayo-Vaughan, while reacting to a story published



•Abiona

by PUNCH Metro on the traumatising ordeals of Abiona's aggrieved family members, promised to do the needful.

He said, "There is obviously a push from the family of the deceased to understand why

those respects, courtesies, visits were not done as well as identifying with them at the time of burial. Somebody did not do his job somewhere and I speak for the organisation.

"I am presently talking with the person that is responsible for that area of responsibility and that's just what I can say for now. Somebody failed in doing his job because they felt that the ratings have been detained and arrested and locked up and now, they are going to be court-martialed.

"Somewhere along the line, perhaps liaison with the Nigerian police so as to show remorse and respect and sympathy for the loss was not done so it is an omission on the part of the authorities responsible for those men in Lagos but that would be corrected."

Kwara woman drowns in well. FRSC recovers corpse