

Two policemen arrested as car dealer dies in custody

IMOLEAYO OYEDEYI

THE family of a car dealer in the Ikorodu area of Lagos, Olashile Oduga, has demanded justice after he was allegedly tortured to death by officers at the Ikota Police Post.

The deceased's elder sister, Abisola Bakare, who spoke on behalf of the family in an interview with *Sunday PUNCH*, said they learned of Oduga's death on Wednesday after she contacted the manager of the estate where he lived in the Chevron area of Ajah.

She said, "It was my brother's pregnant wife who called me on Wednesday afternoon, saying her husband's line had been unreachable since Tuesday afternoon. So, I called the estate manager where he lived and asked him to check on him to find out why his phone wasn't going through.

"It was the estate manager who then informed us that some policemen from the Ikota Police Post had arrested him on Tuesday afternoon."

She explained that the estate manager told her that Oduga had a misunderstanding with his neighbour, Stasia Nora, which escalated into a fight.

After the altercation, the woman went to the police post and brought officers to arrest Oduga.

Bakare said the estate manager visited the Ikota Police Post that same Tuesday after

Oduga's arrest, but the officers denied him access to see her brother.

"So, I followed the estate manager to the police post on Wednesday, along with my sisters. When we arrived, I mentioned my brother's name and told them we were informed of his arrest and detention at the post.

"But the officers on duty denied having any record of him. The estate manager confronted them, insisting that Oduga was present when their men took my brother away. It was at that moment that one of the officers called the Investigating Police

Officer of the post, Modinat Alaka, who directed us to Ajah Police Station because the case had been transferred there," Bakare narrated.

She explained that upon arriving at the station, she found several senior officers in one of the offices discussing the matter.

"They kept telling me, 'Madam, sorry. Take it easy.' I asked them, 'Sorry for what?' and demanded my brother's release. Then, to my shock, the Ikota police IPO started crying.

"The Divisional Police Officer of Ajah Police Station shouted at her, ordering her to speak

before he lost his temper. It was then that she told me my brother was dead," Bakare lamented.

In disbelief, she asked how it happened, but Alaka claimed that when they brought Oduga into custody, he appeared very weak, so they rushed him to Epe General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

"I asked if they had any video evidence showing him being taken to the hospital, but she said they had forgotten to take pictures. I demanded to see his body, and they told me it had been deposited at the Epe mortuary.

NNPCL deducted \$525m as tax credit for road infrastructure in 2024 – Report

DAMILOLA AINA

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has deducted a sum of \$525.09m from its remittances to the Federal Inland Revenue Service as part of the Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme.

This is according to a report from a Federation Account Allocation Committee Post-Mortem Sub-Committee meeting held in January 2025 and seen by *Sunday PUNCH*.

According to the report, NNPCL made monthly deductions of \$52.51m from the amount due to FIRS for Joint Venture Gas and Company Income Tax between February and November 2024.

These deductions were

earmarked for the RITCS, a scheme designed to enable private companies to invest in critical road infrastructure and offset their tax liabilities.

The report read, "Members may recall that the Sub-Committee reported that NNPCL had made deductions in respect of the Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme from the amount due to FIRS JV Gas and CIT taxes. So far, as of November 2024, the sum of \$52,509,484.28 was deducted bringing the total amount to \$525,094,842.80."

However, the state representatives at the meeting expressed concerns about the continued deductions by the national oil firm despite complaints from committee members.

At its August 2024 meeting, the members called for a suspension of the deductions, emphasising that the responsibility of road construction lies with the Federal Government.

Also, at the FAAC Plenary meeting held in Bauchi, NNPCL was requested to suspend further deduction pending when the contentious issue surrounding the scheme is resolved.

They argued that their share of the deduction should be calculated based on the existing Revenue Allocation Sharing Formula and refunded accordingly.

To address the concerns, the Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission formally requested detailed information