



Democratic People's Alliance (DPA) and the party's governorship candidate in Lagos State, Mr. Jimi Agbaje, at a rally in Ikeja yesterday. PHOTO: EMMA OSODI.

Corp May Longe

thinking. Longe was employed GMD of Transcorp in July 2006, when the company had not been listed.

Efforts to reach the Head, Corporate Affairs, Transcorp, Mr. Adedayo Ojo, failed as his mobile phone was switched off, when our reporter called. However, a senior official of the company, who craved for anonymity, denied knowledge of the development.

"I am not in position to confirm that information. But I believe that Transcorp will always comply with all the listing requirements of the NSE," the official said.

INEC Ready To Prosecute Staff

GBENRO ADESINA/Ibadan

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has concluded arrangements to prosecute the four ad-hoc staff who allegedly diverted six voters' registration machines to the residence of PDP chieftain, Chief Lamidi Adedibu.

Investigations at INEC office in Ibadan, Oyo State, revealed that the prosecution was delayed due to certain logistic and documentation errors.

According to a reliable source, all the accused would soon be properly charged to court, adding that there would be no sacred cow as the law would be made to

take its course.

Our source further stated: "We have concluded arrangements to file the necessary papers before the court and once that is done, the culprits would be made to face the court. What actually delayed their trial is that we do not want to go to court without putting our acts together. That, we have done."

The source revealed that proceedings on the matter would commence on or before the end of next month.

Already, the commission has charged an ad hoc staff, Mr. Lateef Lawal to the Iyaganku Magistrate's Court, Ibadan, for alleged diversion of voters' registration

Man Kills Friend

EKENE OBIDIKE

A 30-year-old man has been arrested by the police for allegedly killing his close friend.

The suspect, Jacob Etim, a native of Atimbo in Cross River State, resides at 53, Ade Oshodi Street, Ijebu, Satellite Town, while the deceased was identified as Victor Asuquo.

P. M. News investigations revealed that the duo had been friends for eight years before the tragic incident.

It was gathered that Asuquo borrowed N15,000 from the suspect to meet some pressing financial needs and promised to refund the money in two weeks but, unfortunately, he could not refund the money on the day he promised.

Infuriated, the suspect

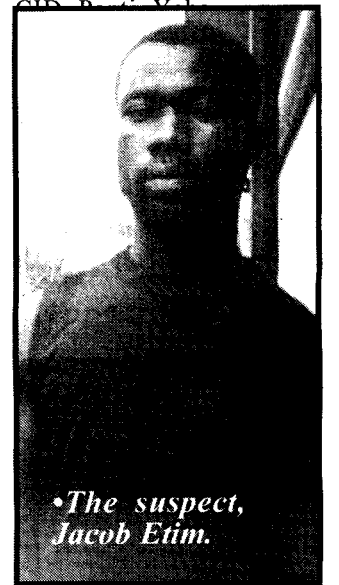
was said to have engaged him in an argument which resulted in fighting and the subsequent death of Asuquo.

In his statement to the police, the suspect stated: "When he (deceased) had financial problem, he came to me to borrow N15,000, with a promise to pay back in two weeks time but he failed to fulfil his promise.

"I invited him to my house and an argument ensued between us. The argument led to a fight. Later, we were separated and he left for his house. The following day when I returned from work, I was told that he died.

"I ran away and abandoned my properties for some time but when I came back to collect my properties, the vigilance team in the area arrested me and took me to the Satellite Town Police Station.

At as the time of filing this report, the suspect is still being kept at the State



•The suspect, Jacob Etim.

Tortured To Death

LANREBABALOLA

Crack detectives at the Zone 2 Police Headquarters, Onikan, Lagos are currently probing the mysterious death of a young man, Rasaki Taiwo, a.k.a Aro, who allegedly died in a police cell at the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Panti, Yaba.

Although, policemen at the Special Anti-Robbery Section (SARS) have denied that Rasaki died in their custody, the family alleged that the deceased was tortured to death in the SARS cell after he was arrested by the policemen.

P.M. News investigations also revealed that a popular transporter and former President of the Road Transport Employers

Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Chief Sunday Ogunyade, a.k.a. Ajeti, was the one who told the police to arrest the deceased who was sent by his master, Alhaji Adigun Kareem, to inspect a plot of land at Iloro, Agege on 8 January, 2007.

The plot of land is the subject of a dispute between Chief Ogunyade and other land owners in the area. They include Alhaji Isiaka Adekunle of Harp and Timbrel, Alhaji Adigun Kareem and Chief K.F. Olabinran.

It was gathered that Chief Ogunyade had been threatening land owners in the area and using the police to arrest and detain anybody found on the vast land.

Narrating the circumstances that led to the death of Rasaki, his employer, Alhaji Adigun Kareem, said he sent him on the fateful day (8 January, 2007) to inspect the construction going on on his plot of land at Iloro, Agege.

"I asked him (Rasaki) to take an Okada (commercial motorcycle) to inspect what was going on on my plot of land at Iloro on 8 January, 2007.

"After waiting for more than five hours and I didn't see him, I went to the land site to know what was happening. On getting there, I met Chief Ogunyade, 12 mobile policemen and more than 25 thugs at the site. The mobile cops were led by a police officer, Hassan Emmanuel, while the others were led by another officer, Malam Gamji Abana, OC SARS.

I couldn't ask any question because I was warned by people around that I would be arrested and beaten if I dare talk to the policemen there.

"They also told me that the boy I sent, Rasaki, and his friend, Sunday Asiko, have been arrested by the policemen.

"I went back and got in touch with Rasaki's sister, Iyabode Obadara, who went to the Alagolo Awosoga Police Station, but the DPO told her that Taiwo was not detained there.

"We went to all the police stations around Lagos to search for him (Rasaki) but we couldn't find him.

"On the third day, policemen from SARS, led by one Charlie came to my house at 1/3, Ogunshaye Road, Ikola, near Ajasa Command, around 3 a.m., I thought they were robbers, so, I did not open my door.

"Around 5 a.m., they forced the door open, arrested me and took me to SARS office."

"At SARS, they accused me of attempting to sell a plot of land belonging to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Olayinka Balogun, the officer in charge at the SCID, an allegation I denied.

"Since then, every effort to locate Rasaki proved abortive until we saw Sunday Asiko (Rasaki's friend) where he was receiving treatment. He told us that he and the deceased were detained at the SARS and tortured, adding that in the process,



•The victim, Rasaki Taiwo, a.k.a Aro, allegedly murdered in police cell.



•Sunday Asiko, allegedly tortured by officers of SARS and now receiving treatment at an undisclosed location.

Rasaki died," Alhaji Kareem narrated.

P.M. News also gathered that another officer at SCID confirmed the death of Rasaki in police cell at Panti and begged Alhaji Kareem and others to take heart.

"Ever since we got information about the death of Rasaki, the police at Panti have been chasing me about, trying to kill me," Alhaji Kareem added.

Mother of the deceased, Mrs. Omoladun Taiwo, appealed to the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero to assist her find the killers of her son.

Another land owner at Iloro, Chief Isiaka Adekunle, appealed to the AIG, Zone 2 Police

Headquarters, Mr. Israel Ajao, to open investigation into the matter and fish out the culprits. He accused Ogunyade of masterminding the death of the young man.

A representative of the land owning family in Iloro, Samson Agbabiaka, also blamed Ogunyade for causing trouble in the area by selling lands without authority. He added that the only recognised estate agent of the family is Barrister Dele Oloke.

P.M. News investigations at the state CID, Panti, confirmed that men of SARS actually arrested the victim, Rasaki Taiwo, a.k.a. Aro and his friend, Sunday Asiko, on the prompting of Chief Ogunyade but no officer was willing to confirm the whereabouts of the two men.

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