

## NEWS PLUS

FROM FEMI FOLARANMI,  
YENAGOA

**B**arely two years after she was brutally raped and murdered inside her shop on Amarata Road, Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State Police command is yet to unmask the killers of 18-year-old girl, Miss Emmanuella Imomoemi Esegì.

Until her sad end in the hands of her yet to be identified killers, Emmanuella had high hopes. She was working with Sharon Ideal Home Furniture Store, Amarata, and was looking forward to a better life. She manned one of the company's stores pending when she would write her Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) examination, before her life was brutally cut short.

Her brutal killing has continued to baffle everyone as she was tortured, raped and murdered inside her shop in broad daylight between noon and 2pm on July 20, 2012. It was even more baffling as the area in which the store is located is a busy area of the state capital.

Imomoemi's corpse was discovered by her mother, Mrs. Tari Ben, who had gone to visit the deceased in her shop. Each day since the incident happened, the woman has been in tears, pleading with the police to arrest whoever was responsible for her daughter's gruesome murder.

Investigations also revealed that some suspects have been arrested in connection with the murder but have since been released. Meanwhile, police have kept sealed lips over the case. The development has prompted a non-government-organization, National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) led by Princess Elizabeth Egbe to take up the battle and ensure Imomoemi does not die in vain.

In a petition to Governor Henry Seriake Dickson, entitled *An Urgent Call for Thorough Investigation/Prosecution of Those Who Tortured and Raped Miss Imomoemi Esegì, Aged 18 years, to Death*, she pleaded that the governor should intervene in the inhuman and barbaric way the teenager was tortured, raped and despatched to her grave.

NAVC petition read in part: "Esegì Imomoemi Emmanuella hailed from Agudama Ekpetaima in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. While waiting to write her JAMB examinations, she was employed to work as a Computer Operator in Sharon Ideal Home Furniture's Store, Amarata. She was expecting her first salary in life on the 30th of July 2012 when she was violently tortured and raped to death by unknown person(s) in broad daylight between 12pm and 2pm inside the store.

"The corpse was first discovered by her mother and her friend who paid an unscheduled visit to her place of work.

"Through the assistance of sympathizers, the police were invited into the matter. The corpse was later deposited in the mortuary. Not much has been heard about the matter since then. The mum and her friend have been going through serious trauma, pains and unanswered questions since then.

"Your Excellency should intervene in this issue of rape and defilement because it is so rampant and on the increase in the state. A child or a female adult is raped or defiled almost everyday in Bayelsa State. This is the climax of what we have been advocating. Those who committed this barbaric act against Miss Esegì Imomoemi Emmanuella did it against nature, humanity at large and the state. Therefore, they must be punished."

NAVC demanded that government at all levels should openly condemn the criminal act and take drastic measures to stop such violence. It pleaded that it should direct a thorough investigation by all security operatives so as to ascertain the true cause

# AGONY OVER MURDERED GIRL

## 20 months after, unanswered questions trail teenager's brutal rape, murder

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• The late Emmanuella

plaguing our dear state," she added.

In an interview, the mother said it was agonizing for her to see the corpse of her daughter in such a terrible state after she was raped to death. According to her, she has since been blaming herself, noting that it was poverty that drove her daughter to go and work in the shop in order to assist the family.

"But as long as God lives, I am of the firm belief that those who killed my daughter would not escape judgment on earth or in heaven," said the bereaved woman.

It was further learnt that Princess Egbe had sent another petition to the Inspector-General of Police, who directed the police men in Zone 5, Benin, to look into the matter.

The Assistant Inspector-General of

Police (AIG) in charge of Zone 5, Benin, had ordered the Bayelsa State Police Command to reopen investigations into the case. A number of suspects were subsequently arrested. Also, Daily Sun gathered that policemen who investigated the matter previously were arrested and detained for doing a shoddy job.

Princess Egbe, therefore, commended the police for looking into the case again. She expressed her willingness to appear as a witness whenever the case is eventually charged to court.

Just before going to press, it was learnt that the Bayelsa State Police Command, under pressure from the Force headquarters, had arrested two suspects in connection with the crime, even as it maintained that investigation would continue.