

Tension in Rivers community over death of undergraduate

FROM TONY JOHN, PORT HARCOURT

There is apprehension in Ogbogoro Town in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State over the death of Chigozie Joseph Iweala, a 200-level Marine Engineering student of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST).

The aggrieved family wants justice over the untimely death of their son.

The immediate elder sister of the victim, Chinye, told Daily Sun how she wished Chigozie's death was a fairy tale.

"I know that God is Omnipresent and has answer to every situation. Oh! Can He solve this problem or raise my brother, Chigozie? I can't bear this burden alone," she sobbed.

Chigozie, born in 1993, was the last child of his parents. He reportedly met his untimely death on May 4, 2014, in a circumstance that has remained unexplainable by his family members.

According to the explanations given by one of his siblings, Chinye Angela, the 21-year-old undergraduate, as well as one of their tenants, Etem, had planned to attend a

child dedication ceremony in Egbelu, a neighbouring community, before she later changed her mind due to the downpour.

"But Chigozie and Etem went," she revealed.

She said before they left, her elder brother, Ichechukwu, sent him on an errand to buy some drugs for him, which the deceased bought. They did not know that was going to be his last errand, as he did not see the end of that day.

According to Chinye, Chigozie and Etem left together for the ceremony at about 3:30pm, and because of the cold weather, she slept off till the following day; and did not check if he returned that night or not.

"I slept very early and never checked on him till the next morning, being Monday May 5 2014. At about 6am, I went to Chigozie's room to tell him to go and dispose the refuse. But I did not see him. I immediately went to Etem's room since I was aware that he was the last person I saw him with. But, he told me that he was not aware of Chigozie's whereabouts.

"I left Etem's room and went to dispose some of the refuse even as I arranged his (Chigozie) own in the wheelbarrow. But when I came back, I still didn't see him or Etem, I asked of my brother in morning."

Chinye explained that there was no clue



• Late Chigozie

as to the deceased's whereabouts. According to her, one of their female neighbours narrated how she went to the timber market in Diobu in the morning to buy wood and saw Etem there.

She said she was gripped with fear at that stage and decided to call Etem on phone. "Etem told me to call my elder sister, Ann Amadi, (nee Iweala) to find out if he slept in her houses. I immediately called my elder sister's husband to confirm if Chigozie slept in his house. But he said no, that he thought my brother was at home; that he would go to Ozuoba Police Station to report the matter."

The distraught young lady explained that shortly after discussing with her brother-in-law, he called her again to that one Miracle, the man Chigozie went for his child's dedication said

they found him dead around Egbelu, Ozuodo in Ogbogoro.

"I shouted and told my elder brother, Ichechukwu, my sisters and my mother. When we got to the scene, we saw Chigozie lying lifelessly, blood dripping from his head with foam in his mouth.

"We took him to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), where he was confirmed dead," she lamented.

She, however, recalled that Etem had told her that while they were at the ceremony, somebody called the deceased on phone to bring an umbrella but he did not know the person.

Meanwhile, both Etem and Miracle are now telling the police all they know about the death of the young man.