

# Varsity lecturer beats wife to death

BY NGOZI UWUJARE

**A** lecturer in Management Science at the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, 39-year-old Peremobowei Teiwei is now in custody, accused of beating his wife to death with a heavy wire cable in Gbaram Local Government Area in Southern Ijaw zone of the state.

Teiwei had accused the deceased, 33-year-old Grace Timisere of aborting a four-month-old pregnancy that would have produced their third child.

The Bayelsa State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Valentian Utomchukwu who disclosed this to *Sunday Sun* said the suspect confessed to the crime in course of investigation, adding that the body of the deceased had been deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

At the headquarters of the Police Command where he is being held, Teiwei told *Sunday Sun*: "It is true that I used cable wire to beat my wife Grace Timisere who had two children for me to death. She was four-months pregnant for me before we had accommodation problem. I was building a house at Etegwe in Yenagoa. The house was about to be ready – it only remained to fix the windows and doors. However, we had a misunderstanding and I told her to go back to the village at Gbaram for a month. When I went to take her back with our two children (a boy and a girl) at Gbaram town I noticed that my wife had aborted the pregnancy.

"I asked her what happened to the pregnancy and she told me that she had aborted it. In the process of probing her as to why she had the abortion, there was a quarrel. The following day between 5 and 6am, when I started questioning her again about it, she got angry and broke glasses that wounded me in the hand.

"In annoyance, I picked up a length of cable and flogged her in the back, and after 30 minutes she fainted. We tried to revive her



•Suspect

but to no avail and she died. My family chartered a speedboat and took her to the FMC Mortuary in Yenagoa.

Recalling how the relationship with the deceased started and progressed, before her unfortunate death, Teiwei said: "My relationship with my late wife began in 2010. She had two children for me, male and female. She gave me a major condition for our union to be properly consummated. She said that since I had not properly married her by going to her parents and performing the traditional marriage rites, I would have to wait until she secured admission into a university before the payment of her dowry would be done. So we are not legally married."

Meanwhile, the family of Grace Timisere, who hailed from Ogbeolomo Town in Oke Local Government Area of Delta State, has insisted that Teiwei must first perform the full marital rites for their late daughter before any talk about her burial would start.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in-charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department of the Bayelsa State Police Command, Yenagoa, Mr Tuesday Assayomo disclosed that the case file had been handed over to the Director of Public Prosecution, adding that the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Police Utomchukwu was ready to charge Teiwei to court.