

CRIME WATCH TODAY

Do you have any information on crime? Call

Robbers kill Lord's Chosen pastor, snatch N3m from him

BY CHRISTOPHER OJI

Lagos State Coordinator of The Lord's Chosen Charismatic Revival Ministries Ijesha, Lagos, was on Monday afternoon shot dead by suspected armed robbers.

Pastor Chukwuemeka Okpokpo, who hails from Abia State, was killed by two gunmen operating in a commercial motorcycle (Okada).

The pastor was actually trailed to a bank near the Apple junction in Amuwo-Odofin by the gunmen who shot him severally, making sure he died on the spot. They fled immediately.

The hoodlums stole the N3 million he had in his possession.

Narrating what happened later, a church member who simply identified himself as Madu, said the robbery may have been organised by the bank staff as the pastor had already notified an official of his intention before leaving the church for the bank.

"I bet you the robbery was an insider's job either from the bank or the church. He was actually trailed to the bank by the bandits. The police should interrogate some officials of the bank."

Another church member who identified himself as Matthew, disagreed. He said: "Pastor Okpokpo may have been assassinated by those who are eyeing his position. He is the Lagos State Coordinator and he is in charge of building. I am sure he was killed by those eyeing his seat. Many see him as being too favoured by the General Overseer, Pastor Lazarus Mouka. Many of them were jealous of the pastor who was trusted by the GO."

"In fact, the church did not believe that the pastor was actually dead. When his corpse was brought to the church, we kept praying from 12.30pm to 8pm, hoping that God would revive him because, we loved him so much. He was later taken to his home-town, near Umuahia, Abia State. Those who took him home left Lagos at about 8pm. They may still be on their way because Umuahia is a long distance from Lagos."

He called on the police not to conclude that because money was collected from the late pastor by those who shot him and believe they were really armed robbers. "I said so because the pastor offered all he had to the gunmen and they still killed him. He was shot severally till he gave up the ghost. His killers made sure that they pumped enough bullets into his body and made sure that he died before they left the scene. If it was armed robbery, they would have collected the money and left in a hurry, but the killers made sure they remained with him till he finally died."

Another church member who claimed he saw the pastor a few hours before he died said, "we all went for a crusade on Sunday and slept together until Monday morning. He may have had premonition of his death as he was complaining of

• Church members mourn, seek probe

fatigue but I thought it was because of the crusade we organised in Ogun State as he was too busy and active during the events."

A police source who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "We are not

going to conclude that it was an armed robbery attack. We may not rule out assassination, but on the other hand, it may be robbery and he may have recognised one of his attackers. We have to expand our findings."



• The late Pastor Okpokpo

Ruling on a contempt application filed by Kashamu against the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) and the Chairman of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Ahmadu Giade, Justice

properly served.

The judge determined the merit of the contempt application, and held that since Justice Abang had previously ruled on a similar case, the instant suit had merely become an academic exercise and un-