

## Life & Living

**T**ragic Thursday! That was what June 18 turned out to be for staffers of Arthur Great Services and Mudons Trust Link, two Apapa, Lagos based sister general contracting corporate outfits.

On that fateful day, a hardworking member of staff, Chris Uwaoma, who reported for work bubbling with life was tragically killed in a motor accident on the Kirikiri road axis of Olodi Apapa.

No thanks to the notorious Apapa traffic, Uwaoma, had at the close of work decided to ride on a motorbike popularly called Okada on his way home. The bike eventually ran into one of the trailers that has made life unbearable for Apapa residents and the accident that followed cut short the life of the 48 year old Uwaoma.

When news filtered in that Uwaoma was no more, his colleagues saw it as one huge joke that was too cruel to be true. They prayed it remained only a joke. But the news turned out to be a reality which they have no option but to accept.

Uwaoma was yesterday (Friday) committed to mother earth at his Ndieke-Ala village in Ikemba autonomous community in Ikwuano LGA, Abia State. He is survived by his widow, three children and aged mother, brothers and sisters.

Going by the burial arrangement made available by the family, a wake keep was held for him on Saturday July 4 at his No 13 Jejelaye street, Olodi Apapa residence before his body was taken home for burial. The well attended wake keep was graced by members of his home community in Lagos and his former colleagues at Arthur Great Services and Mudons Trust Link.

The Managing Director of Arthur Great Services, Mr Arthur Onyeka who is still writhing in pains over the painful exit of his staff has yet to recover from the shock even as Chris is buried today.

Onyeka said early this week that it was hard to believe that Chris was no more. In an advert he placed in the *Sun* newspapers early this week, Onyeka described Chris as a loyal, dedicated and committed colleague. In his words: "Chris was a trusted friend, a loyal staff, a dedicated colleague and a committed comrade," adding, "My heart is so heavy with tears, my entire family will miss him. I thought it was a joke, but it has come to be a reality. What a short time you spent here on earth. The distance you covered was less than 1,000 kilometre and the engine knocked. Chris we dearly love you to the extent that it is hard for us to believe and throw in the towel that you are no longer part of the Arthur Great and Mudons Trust Link family....what a pity!"

Onyeka in a statement said the corporate group Uwaoma worked for and died in active service will not abandon him in death as they have resolved to take good care of the young family he left behind.

"For us, in Arthur Great Services and Mudons Trust Link, the challenge is now

Uwaoma with the family and mum (far left)

to ensure that his young family does not suffer. We are going to give top priority to the welfare of his wife and children. We have made available the sum of N5m to AICO Insurance to ensure the education of his children up to the university level. His wife will also be well taken care of. We will ensure she does not lack what she needs to take care of her kids," Onyeka said, even as he prayed God should grant the Uwaoma family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Chairman of Mudons Trust Link, Chief Dominic Onyeka on his part stated that the late Chris Uwaoma was an honest staff who will be missed greatly.

# Company pledges on family of late staff



"I m still in shock even as we speak.I just couldn't believe it when I heard of the accident that claimed his life. Uwaoma was not only honest but a dedicated staff we would all miss. The bible says in all things we should give God thanks. We take consolation in the fact that as a Christian God will accept his soul. We love him, But God loves him more."

Dominic Onyeka while bemoaning the loss of his staff to Okada accident, urged both the federal and Lagos state governments to do something urgent to end the Apapa gridlock that has turned a nightmare for residents of the area.

"As we mourn Chris, we urge both the

federal government and Lagos state government to do something urgent about the traffic situation in Apapa. The menace of trailers, tankers and other heavy duty vehicles is taking its toll on the area with lives being lost on a daily basis. Apapa is the commercial nerve centre of the city of Lagos, neglecting the roads that lead to the Ports is a big shame. That our beloved Chris Uwaoma is no more is a direct fall out of the madness on Apapa roads."

He gave an assurance that Arthur Great Services and Mudons Trust Link will be fully involved in the burial of Chris, declaring: "We are going to give him a befitting burial."