

• 19-year-old footballer murdered in Jos

From Gyang Bere, Jos

CHIBEZE Ogbukagu, a meek and amiable footballer, suffered a cruel fate in the hands of a heartless suspected group of cultists, who abducted, beat and shot him dead in the frontage of Xima Foodies and Lodge Hotel, Alheri, Jos, Plateau State, for committing no offence.

The 19-year-old Chibeze had gone to watch football at about 8pm on that ill-fated day. His friend, Ifeanyi Ozuwe, a DJ at the hotel asked him to stay back after the match to enable them go together. On their way home at about 11pm, he was abruptly killed by suspected cultists while Ifeanyi survived with a gunshot on his stomach.

According to Ifeanyi who is battling to survive at Bingham University Teaching Hospital Jos, they stepped out of the hotel at about 10:30pm and met a group of 15 boys smoking on the express road, which was virtually empty of people and moving vehicles.

Chibeze, who was also selling spare parts at Farin-Gada, quickly cautioned his friend when he sensed danger and suggested that they should hurriedly leave home as if he had the premonition that something terrible was going to happen.

Unfortunately, the gang leader heard what Chibeze said, he called him to a jungle and interrogated him. After 30 minutes, he was shot dead. Chibeze was shot on the neck while Ifeanyi who was held hostage by the remaining boys was shot him in the stomach.

Both of them became helpless as they watched each other in anguish battling to survive. People who were in the hotel fled when they heard gunshots. Ifeanyi and Chibeze were taken to hospital at about 11:30pm. Chibeze was satisfied dead on arrival and his body was deposited at the morgue.

Apart from playing for PEPSI Academy and selling motor spare parts, Chibeze was pursuing his admission into the University of Jos until he met his untimely death. Chi-



• Terna, PPRO

beze hailed from Anambra State. He was born and brought up in Jos and was the last in the family of five.

Meanwhile, Ifeanyi who wailed over the sudden death of his friend is battling to survive at the private ward of Bingham University Teaching Hospital.

When Daily Sun visited him in the hospital, he admitted that he actually begged Chibeze to wait in the hotel but never knew that agents of death were also waiting for them outside.

The 19-year-old Ifeanyi, who also hails from Anambra State, went blank when he heard the gunshot coming from the direction his friend was taken to:

"I took the episode from the beginning as a play even when the leader of the group took away Chibeze. I had believed that he was going to be released until when I heard the gunshot. I became terrified and I went blank immediately, after sometime I came back to my senses, the others boys

who held me hostage started beating me.

"They collected my phone and N5,000 after which, they left. One of them came back when I was trying to help Chibeze, he said 'I am going to shoot.' Before I knew it, I was on the ground and later I saw myself in the hospital.

"Police must find justice for my late friend. Those who carried out the killing should be fished out to face the full wrath of the law."

Felex Ogbukagu, father of the deceased, said the brutal killing of his son left the family in sorrow, pains and anguish. He was invited to A Police Division, opposite the State Police Command for investigation where he told the police to go after the killers of his son.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Tyopev Marthias Terna, said the command has commenced investigation to trap the killers of Chibeze to ensure justice even in death.

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