

ews around the

Man kills father, sister, inflicts machete cuts on 6 others

From **Obinna Odogwu,**
Abakaliki

TRAGEDY struck in Ifelemenu village, Ekpeomaka community, in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, as a

23-year-old man, Julius, went berserk, killing his father, Chief Nwode, and sister.

The suspect also inflicted machete cuts on six other residents of the area before he was allegedly gunned down by

the husband of one of his victims.

The incident, which happened Sunday afternoon, sent shock waves through the area, as residents ran helter-skelter for safety. Some persons, in the course of seeking refuge, reportedly sustained

injuries.

A resident of the area, Ekoyo, said the suspect, who had allegedly taken hard drugs before the incident, had a misunderstanding with his father before he killed him.

"When he was attacking his father with a machete, his sister came out and asked him why he was attacking their father and he descended on her and macheted her to death after killing the father.

"Some neighbours who saw what happened came to the scene. Julius attacked about six of them with the machete. As he was leaving the area wielding the machete, a man, Peter, whose wife was among those injured, went inside his house, brought his gun and shot him and he died instantly," Ekoyo alleged.

Confirming the incident, the Ebonyi State police public relations officer, ASP Loveth Odah, said, contrary to the accounts by the villagers, Julius killed himself with his machete.

"The boy is suspected to be a religious fanatic and insane but I am not sure that the insanity aspect of it was confirmed by a doctor. He was said to be burning incense and candles in the night," she added.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the victims have been deposited at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, while the injured are currently receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in the state.

Alleged fraud: My hands are clean - NABTEB registrar

From **Fred Itua,** Abuja

REGISTRAR and chief executive of the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB), Prof. Ifeoma Mercy Isiugo-Abanihe, has explained the circumstances that led to the dissolution of the governing board of the council.

The registrar said allegations of corruption "concocted" against her by the sacked chairman of the dissolved governing council, Leonard Shilgba, were false.

In a document made available to *Daily Sun*, Isiugo-Abanihe said she decided to make some clarifications and set the records straight before the general public.

She insisted that the claims were deliberately orchestrated to rubbish her reputation and paint her as a corrupt public servant.

She maintained that the "clarification will disabuse the minds of the general

public in order to stop the former chairman from feeding the public with deliberate falsehood and to debunk his claims as an advocate of due process and anti-corruption."

Shilgba had earlier accused the Federal Ministry of Education, which supervises NABTEB, of covering up fraud in the agency.

The board said it acted on the report of a special investigative committee it set up to probe allegations of corruption at NABTEB, and decided to suspend the registrar of the agency and four directors in June.

However, the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Education, Sonny Echono, on June 25, announced that President Muhammadu Buhari had approved the reinstatement of the registrar and the suspended directors and the dissolution of the governing board with immediate effect.

"The purported suspension of Isiugo-

Abanihe, and four other directors of NABTEB has been nullified as it did not conform with due process especially in the case of the registrar, because the board went beyond its powers and in contravention of section 5 and Section 6 of NABTEB Act," Mr Echono had announced.

Speaking to *Daily Sun*, the registrar insisted that the reason Mr Shilgba-led board "suspended and remove her was because she did not succumb to his plan to loot NABTEB and enrich himself."

She explained: "Contrary to his self-acclaimed love for due process, Mr Shilgba did not feel any qualms about flouting several Government regulations.

"Fifteen per cent of N10,000 of enrolment fees for NABTEB examinations, translating to N1,500 per candidate was to be appropriated for governing board members, while five per cent was appropriated for staff logistics."

PHOTO Xpress

