

BY JENIFER EZEOKOLI

HE must have been the happiest man on earth as his wedding day approached. His joy knew no bounds. He practically walked on the moon. As the D-day approached he was upbeat and full of hope that relations, friends and well wishers would soon gather to celebrate the great occasion with him.

But it was not to be as he had wished and hoped because his life was cut short in his prime under mysterious circumstance that has now become an object of wild speculation. That is the story of Anthony Amakom Ezebuilo, an indigene of Anambra State who was killed, in a yet-to-be unraveled circumstance, on the eve of his wedding. If a soothsayer had told him, on March 1, 2019, that he was not going to be alive to witness his wedding scheduled for the next day, he would have thought the soothsayer was insane.

The joy that the 42-year-old businessman exuded as the day drew nearer was such that everybody, friends and neighbours felt it. One of his neighbours remembers him jokingly asking him to go and take some laxative in preparation for a sumptuous treat at his wedding reception taking place the following day, Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the advertised venue.

### Hope dashed

But as fate would have it, he could not get to either being joined in the holy matrimony to his sweetheart nor entertain his guests with choice wine and food as he had boasted in conversation with them. His death has sent not only a shocking wave across the minds of acquaintances but also cast a long shadow on the otherwise joyous event.

As things stand, today pall of sorrow hang over his residence at Ikunola Street, Ijebu, Satellite, Lagos. When *Saturday Sun* visited the area, the gate was left wide open while his obituary posters littered walls of the buildings on the street up to the street gate.

Opposite his unpainted house sat three elders who hardly said anything without shaking their heads and snapping their fingers at the same time. Their expression showed that they had lost a great man. It was gathered that the men had come for the family meeting as regards burial arrangements for him.

### Fiancee tells the story of what

# CRUEL FATE

Man dies mysteriously on wedding eve  
Fiancee accuses police of complicity

### happened

Narrating to *Saturday Sun*, how her hope of tying the nuptial knots with her beau was dashed, the fiancee said that her husband went to Alaba International market that morning as usual. "On his way back, he called me. It was around 8 pm, and he told me where he was going to. That was the last time we spoke. Early the next day, we started looking for him as we had something to do that morning (the wedding). We went to different police stations to report. The people that went to Agboju police station were told that a body was found and brought in while they were on their patrol. They immediately went to drop the body at the mortuary in Yaba. They did all that without waiting for someone to claim the body.

"They did not do anything, no autopsy, no investigations, literally nothing. They claimed that he had an accident. His body was not like a person that had an accident. He had stab wounds, his stomach was open and his intestines were out. How is that an accident? I did not see the body. I haven't seen it till today but my family said they saw his body. I went back to the police station and demanded that they take me to the place they found the body. They took me to the spot at Alakija. There was no sign of an accident or even blood there yet the person handling the case (Investigating Police Officer, IPO), concluded that it was an accident case. The police should tell me what happened to my husband."

### Elder sister calls for full disclosure of circumstances of death

Sitting besides Ezebuilo's fiancé is the elder sister of the deceased. She refused to give her name. "We have not been told the real truth of what happened, it was the police that discovered the body, but they have not given an explanation on what, when or how it happened," she said. "Anything I say now is what I heard. We have not been given concrete information.



ANTHONY

We need concrete information on what happened, the case cannot be closed like that. Even his wife does not know anything. The deceased spoke to her fiancee the previous night around 8pm. He told her that he was going to an event organized by his friends. After that, we did not hear anything from him. We just heard that they found his body inside the car in Alakija. I do not believe what they are saying. There was no sign of blood at the spot where they claimed to find his body. An accident scene is supposed to have lots of blood."

The family is also worried about the supposed friends who, as at the time of filing this story, have not shown up to explain what transpired at

the supposed meeting. They also do not know where he attended that meeting.

Mrs. Ezebuilo summed it all up when she said: "we do not know the venue. He did not specify the location of the meeting. Everybody is avoiding it, nobody wants to come forward and say anything for fear of being arrested. They should know something, no matter how little the information was. I believe that in the long run, the truth would come out. The police are my first suspects."

When *Saturday Sun* spoke with the Lagos State PPRO, Bala Elkana he said: "if such happened we will get to the root of the matter." But as at the time of going to press, he is yet to revert.