

Police arraign 3 women for trafficking newborn twins, killing their mother

From Geoffrey Anyanwu, Enugu

THREE women, who conspired, sold newborn twins and subsequently killed their mother in Enugu, have been arraigned by the Enugu State Police Command.

The trio who were arraigned on three-count charge of conspiracy, trafficking of newborn twins and murder were said to have sold the twins for N3 million and poisoned the mother of the babies who realised she had been shortchanged after her involvement in the business.

According to the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, the suspects, Ukorie Cynthia, 25, Onyia Pauline, 56, and Aroh Ijeoma, 39, all residents of Enugu were remanded in Enugu Correctional Custodial Centre, pending further hearing in the case.

Ndukwe said they were arraigned following the consolidation and conclusion of investigations into the case by the state Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department of the Command.

Giving further details he said: "The suspects, who were arrested on 26/07/2022, by police operatives serving in Central Police Station (CPS) Enugu, were remanded in Enugu Correctional Custodial Centre, pending further hearing of the case. Their arrest was sequel to the receipt of a report alleging that they conspired and sold the newborn twins of one Chinenye Odoh aged 31, and thereafter caused her death by poisoning her food, when she realised that the suspects gave her an amount lesser than the total sum they sold the babies.

"Investigations revealed that Ukorie Cynthia accommodated the deceased in her house till she put to birth on 05/07/2022, while Aroh Ijeoma facilitated the sale of the babies by contacting Onyia Pauline, a nurse, who brought a couple that bought the babies upon their birth at the sum of Three million naira (N3,000,000.00).

"That contrary to this sum, Ijeoma informed the deceased and mother of the babies, Chinenye, that the children were sold for Two million, three hundred and fifty thousand naira (N2,350,000.00) and thereafter, gave her the sum of One million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (N1,800,000.00), gave Cynthia and Pauline Fifty Thousand naira (N50,000.00) each; and kept the remaining proceed to herself.

"However, when the deceased and mother of the babies eventually knew the exact amount they sold the babies, she demanded the balance, but was

thereafter said to have eaten a suspected poisoned corn given to her by Cynthia, leading to her death."

The case, according to the police image maker, has been adjourned to October 5, for further hearing.

NEMA alerts Edo on flood, lists areas at great risk

From Ighomuaye Lucky, Benin

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Edo State has alerted residents on imminent flood in the state, tasking residents to desilt their drainages in order to mitigate its impact, especially in flood prone areas.

It listed Etsako East, Etsako Central and Esan South-East as the local government areas that would experience more of the flooding due to their proximity to the bank of the River Niger.

Head, NEMA Edo Operations Office, Mr. Dahiru Yusuf, made the call in Benin at a workshop on the theme, 2022 Flood Preparedness, Mitigation and Response,

organized for stakeholders in disaster management.

He said the call became necessary following the 2022 seasonal climate prediction that forecast that there would be high rainfall across the country.

"Drainages, culverts and all waterways should be cleared for water to flow freely without affecting buildings and also reduce the impact of flood especially in the urban centres," he said

He advised riverine communities to start moving to higher grounds when the volume of water increases because consistent rainfall would increase the water levels of different rivers across the state

Enugu@31: ESDA hails Ugwuanyi for upholding founding fathers' dreams

ONE of the advocacy groups that championed the struggle for the creation of the state, Enugu State Development Association (ESDA) has paid glowing tribute to Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi for upholding the dreams of the founding fathers of the state.

Speaking during an event organised to commemorate the 31st anniversary of Enugu State at the Government House, Enugu, the President General of ESDA, HRH Igwe Ezeudo, Sir Abel Ogbonnaya

Nwobodo, disclosed that the association is impressed with developmental strides and peace initiative in the state.

Igwe Nwobodo stressed that Governor Ugwuanyi's accomplishments have stood him out as "a great leader, achiever, mentor, supporter and the pillar in which our state stands on."

He, therefore, told the governor: "His-

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How Nigeria can tackle migration problems - Salifu

From Okwe Obi, Abuja

THE Executive Director of African Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr Arome Salifu, has suggested ways Nigeria can tackle migration-related problems.

Arome, at a parley with media executives, yesterday in Abuja, advised the government to provide conducive environment and working tools for both operatives and migrants at respective border posts.

He encouraged the government to train operatives on migrants' rights protection at the borders and create a unit to checkmate possible abuses.

According to him, the rights and privileges of migrants must not be trampled upon, adding that the government provide more logistics, training, organise more sensitization and enlightenment.

He said: "Security operatives stationed at the borders should be encouraged to attend

more training on migrants' right protection and create a unit to checkmate possible abuses. Available shelters for parastatals should be upgraded through the assistance of the state and federal government.

"Capacity building workshop on human and migrants rights should be organized for management or sectional heads of each border operating agencies.

"Government should pay attention to host communities and recruit members of the host communities as border operatives.

"More resource personnel familiar with the operation at borders should be present and more traditional rulers invited to attend the training subsequently. Inter-agency cooperation should be continuously encouraged among officers."

He disclosed that his organisation recently worked with several international organisations and government institutions.