

Strange deaths claim couple, 2 family members in Enugu

From **Magnus Eze**, Enugu

THE mood in Abor community in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State now is anything but pleasant. The entire community has been in mourning mood since January 19, following the death of four of its sons and daughters and they would be buried on Friday, April 14.

On that fateful morning in January, the people woke up to the terribly devastating news of the death of Peter Okolongwu from Amebo Amukwu Village.

Okolongwu, 58, an events planner, died and the next day his 50-year-old wife, Petronilla Okolongwu (nee Ozougwu), followed suit in similar circumstances as shown by clinical manifestations. The woman was allegedly reported to have died of "toxic syndrome."

Sadly, Okolongwu's niece, Divine-Favour, 15, and the man's 13-year-old nephew, David, who returned for Christmas holiday, and were staying with the couple, also died, all days apart. Divine-Favour and David gave up the ghost on January 20 and 26,



•The couple

respectively.

Their remains would be interred after a funeral mass at St. Peter's Catho-

lic Church, Abor, in Udi LGA on April 14. Tears would flow uncontrollably over these mysterious deaths. Staff-

ers of the Institute of Management Technology (IMT), where Petronilla worked, have continued to weep over her demise.

President-general of the Abor community, Ozor Bonaventure, told *Daily Sun* that such strange deaths had never occurred in their area before. The tragedy was unusual, especially as the people never manifested any form of sickness before they died hours apart.

To ascertain the root cause of these mysterious deaths in order to forestall a recurrence, the matter was reported to the police station at the Ninth Mile Corner by some family members and a coroner's inquest was ordered.

They also alerted some relevant government health authorities, this was as speculations on the possible cause of deaths, including toxic ingestion, were rife.

Our correspondent learnt that there were preliminary prognosis and conclusions by the hospitals and doctors that attended to the couple before they passed on. But the deceased children were not taken to the hospital.

Garlands for Olawuyi, Nigerian law expert