

Armed Men Kill Banker, Hotelier In Rivers, Abuja

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A top banker with Skye Bank, Mr. Adewale Adesanya, has been murdered by gunmen suspected to be hired assassins at Ahoada area of Rivers State. This came as armed men also butchered the Chief Executive Officer of Depulo Hotel and Suites, Mr. Vicent Obianado, on Friday night in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Before his death, the 39-year-old Adesanya worked at the Ekeki branch of Skye Bank in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Adesanya, who was driving his car to Port Harcourt on Saturday in company with two others, was shot several times about 3p.m. before the vehicle skidded into the bush near a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) filling station after Okobe.

The assassins followed the vehicle into the bush with further gun shots to ensure he never survived. The names of two other occupants were simply given as Haruna and Samson, all of whom were well known by family and friends of the deceased.

The two young men escaped into the bush when they noticed that the gunmen were coming towards the car as the late banker tried to crawl out with his last strength.

According to statement obtained from Samson, who later resurfaced in Yenagoa, one of the

gunmen repeatedly told a member of the gang to ‘finish him up’ and ‘offload him’.

A team of policemen from the Ahoada-East Area Command later arrived the scene to remove Adesanya’s body and the car. Witnesses said no item was removed from the car apart from Adesanya’s GSM phone which the assassins took away.

The assassins had used the phone to alert his friend who called on the development. A family source said the late Adesanya, a banker of almost 10 years, was the account officer to many of the former militants on the payroll of the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme.

He was believed to be having running battle over certain deductions from the amnesty allowance in line with the payment standing order. The late

banker, who hailed from Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State, was a socialite well known in Yenagoa. Adesanya has two children while his wife is pregnant.

Meanwhile, detectives attached to the Divisional Police Station, Madalla, on the outskirts of the FCT are on the trail of those who murdered Obianado. Obianado, a former manager with defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), was killed on the premises of his hotel. The suspected hired assassins stormed the hotel on a motorcycle.

A police officer, who pleaded anonymity, told our correspondent yesterday that the hotel security officials on night duty have all absconded. However, other workers on duty, including guests who lodged in the hotel, have been taken in to custody for questioning.

An experienced and competent Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) is leading a team to unravel the death, the officer added. He said: “On Friday night, we got a distress call from a worker in the hotel that his boss had been slaughtered.

The complainant, who was on night duty at the time of incident, said that two men came on a motorcycle in about 12a.m. and demanded to see the MD who was in his office.

They went into his office and shortly after, the MD and the two men stepped out into the compound of the hotel. “He said they thought they were having a private conversation until the shouting of their boss attracted attention as his visitors continued to stab Obianado with a knife until they finished butchering him to pieces. They took off on