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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Imo - Suspected Killers of Monarch Flown to Abuja

Amby Uneze

25 November 2010

Recommander

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Owerri — Suspected killers of the traditional ruler of Akanuezeala Autonomous Community in Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, His Royal Highness, **Eze Emeka Njoku**, on Monday, have been taken to Abuja for high powered investigation on the circumstances leading to the gruesome murder, even as the Imo State Police Command has claimed responsibility of the killing.

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This is coming on the heels of avalanche of protests by the kinsmen of the slain monarch who stormed the premises of Government House, Owerri on Tuesday, protesting the gruesome murder of their monarch, asking the state government to bring justice to the incident.

THISDAY reliably gathered that those behind the killing were identified by the younger brother of the slain monarch who was in the same vehicle with him as well as the police orderly of the monarch, who also sustained injuries during the shooting.

Both were taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri for medical treatment where they saw and identified the policeman that killed the monarch. According to them, the police man also sustained injuries and was also brought there for treatment.

On the circumstances leading to Njoku's death, it was learnt that the police on getting a distress call that there was a robbery incident along Oke Ikpe Street, Aladinma Federal Housing estate that night went to identify the location, but since they couldn't locate the area, they contacted the Aladinma Police Station who joined the team and on citing vehicles approaching, they opened fire on the Jeep which the late monarch was driving.

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Njoku, who until his death was the proprietor of Aladinma Royal Suites, Trendy Fast Foods and some filling stations in Owerri metropolis and beyond, was assassinated about 2 a.m. on Monday as he was about driving in his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) Honda to his hotel in Aladinma. He was said to be returning from political meeting when the gunmen allegedly laid ambush for him.

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Addressing the protesters on behalf of the state governor, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr Ken Njemanze (SAN), lamented over the shocking incident. He said the death of Eze Emeka Njoku is a slap on the face of government and abomination in the sight of God.

He assured the community that government will do everything within its powers to bring the perpetrators to book.

He urged the people to hold their peace and allow the law enforcement agencies to do their work and added that nobody is above the law.

Earlier, the spokesman of the demonstrating community, Dr Donatus Ibe said they were at the Government House, Owerri to lodge a formal complaint on how their son and Eze was murdered in a cold blood by unknown persons in Owerri, and to show how bitter they were. He said his death; Akanuezeala Community in particular and Mbano in general are almost at riot for losing a son whose investments in the state has provided jobs for about 300 youths.

Dr Ibe noted that the people of Akanuezeala community are known for peace and would not take law into their hands but urge the government and security agencies to fish out the culprits without further delay.

He however advised the people and youths in the community to hold their peace even as he expressed confidence that the long arm of the law will catch those involved in the

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