

By Kingsley Omonobi



How deputy Defence Information boss was killed — *Probe team*

ABUJA—THE investigating team that probed how the former Deputy Director of Defence Information, Group Captain Eniola Akinduro was killed by armed robbers last Tuesday has said that the Airforce Officer was shot at point blank through the driver's window.

According to a source close to the team, "On the fateful day that the robbers were carrying out their operations along the Kaduna-Abuja road, one or two persons who had been robbed, succeeded in sending a distress call to the joint military task force, code-named Operation flush about the robbery and location."

"Somehow, the robbers intercepted the distress call and so positioned themselves in readiness for the anticipated military patrol vehicle that was to come and rescue victims of the robbery"

"Unfortunately, Captain Akinduro drove into them at that point in time. The robbers who were by this time tensed up and ready for the kill, believed that the officer who was in military uniform, was a kind of advance party of the military task force."

Akinduro himself, on getting to the spot, saw many vehicles parked on the road with some persons suspected to be policemen carrying out checks, slowed down and parked. But before he could do anything, the robbers

opened fire on him. He was shot twice, in the head and chest.

Continuing the source said, "the team found that nothing was taken away from him. His identity card was intact, his wallet was intact, all other documents, including his uniform were left intact also. The car that was thought stolen was later found in a ditch just by the road."

Expressing sadness over the manner the officer was killed, the source said "the car was found littered with Group Captain Akinduro's blood" meaning that "he bled so much before giving up the ghost."

It would be recalled that Captain Akinduro who had just been posted to the Nigerian Defence Academy as the Chief Instructor of the Air-

force wing, was returning to Abuja after reporting for duty when he was killed at about 3 pm along the Kaduna-Abuja road.

Meanwhile, the military authorities say the late officer would be buried in Abuja, at the Military Cemetery next week Friday as a national hero after a full military ceremony because he died in active service.

INEC's new voters registration exercise begins November

By Emmanuel Ulayi

ABUJA — STRONG indications emerged yesterday that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) may kick start the new voters registration exercise for the 2007 elections by the first week of November this year.

The action is coming on the heel of the speedy attention being given to the registration of new political parties.

According to a senior INEC official, who spoke with Vanguard in Abuja, the exercise

will commence immediately after the processing of the application of the new parties seeking for registration in line with the Commission policy to enlarge the Political space.

The measure, he added is to ensure active participation of the new parties in the on going electoral activities that will culminate in the conduct of general elections next year.

Meanwhile, section 78 (1) of the Act states: Any political association which complies with the provision of the constitution and this Act for the

purposes of registration shall be registered as a political party provided, however, that such application for registration as a political party shall be duly submitted to the commission not later than six months before a general elections.

It could be recalled that 37 parties have so far been registered by INEC. The registration of the 22 associations seeking registration will increase the numbers of parties in the country that will participate in the forthcoming elections to 59.