

# Sorry end of two oil pirates

By Fredrick Okopie

**E**MIKO and Koko as they were fondly referred to, were inseparable like Sam and Eric, in William Golden's *Lord of the Flies*. Exactly 15 days after the demise of Emiko, allegedly in the hands of Naval operatives on guard at Dolphin Yard, near Tincan waters in Apapa, Koko his bosom friend and "business" partner was on January 15, killed by a hired security operative guarding a popular fishing company (name withheld) at the end of Alekotile Street, off Karimu Street, in Kirikiri Town, in Lagos State.

When *Vanguard* visited the popular waterside where transactions of petroleum products were made last Tuesday, residents were in sober mood, muttering to one another in a low tones on how two friends died within two weeks.

According to our source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the duo met their death over a shady business. They informed this reporter that most of these boys who go by pseudo-names steal petroleum products from berthed barges and NNPC pipelines.

"On new year eve night", one of these informers narrated, "around 2am, Emiko; Koko and another fellow, went to the river to 'hustle' in order to have a nice new year celebration with friends. On their way, they met another group of pirates who told them that Naval operatives were on guard and they were chased out of the water" But they did not heed the warning. Instead, they went, with their boats filled with jerry cans, hoes and other tools. When they got to the Dolphin



Yard, along the Apapa Tincan waters, there were gun shots and Emiko was hit on the head and died instantly. Koko and the other fellows swam for safety." The Naval operatives who recovered Emiko's lifeless body tied it to a stationery boat and later showed the family the corpse after two days of fruitless search.

"The body was hurriedly buried by his friends and family members at the Ifelodun-Ajeromi Cemetery, at Trinity, in Olodi, because of fear of police arrest."

As if that was not enough to teach Koko a lesson, he went on another escapade and lost his life in the process. When this reporter asked about Koko from our source, he retorted angrily: "Yes, Koko is dead." Narrating the event that led to his death, he said: "His death was due to his greed. He has made money from this water business." From the proceed, he bought a Mercedes Benz Car, a bus (danfo) and a well furnished house in Mazamaza area of the state.

Nobody can say how Koko and his two elder brothers (Teco and SO) knew that a fishing company (name withheld) had

diesel worth N2 million in its vessel.

However, Teco the eldest of the brothers, a well known former danfo driver in the '90s, at the Kirikiri garage, led the operation to where the vessel berthed. Immediately the security man saw their boat coming, he opened fire. Koko was hit on the left rib cage. He slumped in the boat. Some minutes later, Teco came from hiding, carried his younger brother's lifeless body, and in the same manner in which Emiko was buried, Koko was also buried at the Trinity Burial Ground.

But there was another version on how Koko was killed. That they were siphoning diesel from the vessel when the security man saw them and open fired on them.

No family member could be reached for comments on the death of Koko. Their ailing mother was said to be in a healing home somewhere in Ajangbadi area of Lagos State.

The death of Emiko and Koko has increased the death toll since the Imore pipeline explosion in 2004 that claimed about 200 lives.