



BY CHIDI NKWOPARA,
OWERRI.

Uneasy calm has enveloped the rural sleepy Awaka autonomous community, Owerri North local council area of Imo State following the reported death of Ejike Nnadi, in what members of the immediate family called "suspicious circumstances."

Ejike, as he was fondly called by his friends and relations, was a graduate of Education/ Government from Imo State University, Owerri, and for upwards of three years before his death, he was one of the jobless youths walking the streets of Imo and hoping for a brighter tomorrow.

DEATH CALLS

However, his life ended abruptly after he reportedly escorted the traditional ruler of his community to his (the ruler's) friend's house in far-away Calabar and was said to have died in his sleep after inhaling poisonous gas emitted from a generator. The ruler's driver also died under the same circumstance.

FATHER PETITIONS

Not very comfortable with the story weaved round the death of his son, Ejike's father, Donates Nnadi secured the services of a legal practitioner, Mr. S. I. Opara. Expectedly, the lawyer, on October 27, 2014, addressed a petition to the Commissioner of Police, Imo state titled; "A case of murder of Ejike Nnadi by Eze Akujobi David Osuagwu, Ezikoche 2 of Awaka autonomous community."

Part of the petition reads: "On the 18th day of October 2014, being Saturday, our client's elder brother, Dunstan Nnadi, while in the church with our client for the Catholic Men Organization, CMO, ceremony, received a phone call from HRH Eze Akujobi David Osuagwu, to the effect that he (Eze Akujobi) travelled to Calabar with our client's son, Ejike, and the Eze's driver, Chinedu Egbuhuo."

Opara further told the CP that the traditional ruler took both of them to his friend's house to pass the night, while the Eze slept in a hotel and "in the morning, he (the Eze) was informed that both our client's son, Ejike, and the Eze's driver



•Late Ejike

Family raises alarm over son's death

• point accusing fingers at ruler

died as a result of poisonous gas emitted from the generator."

FAMILY IGNORED

According to the letter: "Up to the time of this petition, the Eze has not informed our client about the incident. To further worsen the matter, the Eze informed our client's elder brother that he reported the matter to the police and had even carried out autopsy on the corpse of our client's son. The Eze had done the foregoing without recourse to our client, the father of Ejike Nnadi. The only conclusion open to our client is that Eze Akujobi Osuagwu has used his son, Ejike, for ritual."

OTHER COMMITMENTS

The lawyer further alleged that the Eze had been promising to assist his client send his son, Ejike, to overseas for greener pasture, stressing that his client had paid over N500,000 to the Eze, to enable him send his son, Ejike, overseas. He, therefore, urged the police to "apprehend Eze Akujobi David Osuagwu, with a view to investigating the case thoroughly, so that the ruler and his cohorts can be brought to book".

RULER REACTS

Reacting to the story linking him with the recent death of the duo in far away Calabar, Cross River State, Eze Osuagwu described it as "false and a calculated attempt by his enemies at home to destroy his reputation and good name."

While hinging his denial on the autopsy reports relating to the two deaths, Eze Osuagwu however, admitted that his driver

and Ejike travelled with him to see his friend and were found dead in the Guest Room where they slept the previous night.

The royal father disclosed that this ill-fated day was not the first time the duo slept in his friend's Guest Room, adding that: "This particular trip turned out to be a disaster because my personal assistant (Ejike) turned on the generator, facing their room, without shifting the exhaust pipe away."

MY HANDS ARE CLEAN

On the planned movement of Ejike to overseas, the royal father said: "I even took him to the Embassy for his visa last year, but because the surname on his passport was Nnadi and not David Osuagwu, I could not convince the Embassy that he was my biological relation. To overcome this problem, I recently got a new passport for him, in the name of Osuagwu. I planned taking him back to the Embassy for his visa this December."

He then wondered why anybody would be suspecting foul play in the deaths of Ejike and his driver, who until their death were very close to him.

FATHER STANDS BY STORY

Reacting to the royal father's account, Ejike's father wondered when it became fashionable for a guest to start operating his host's generator, as well as moving it to wherever he wills. "These boys are no longer alive to tell the story of what led to their death. When has it become fashionable for a guest to operate facilities in his host's home, including a generator? The Eze carefully avoided affirming that I gave him N500,000 and I do not know why anybody opted to conduct an autopsy in the absence of members of the immediate family of the deceased," Mr. Nnadi said.

APPEALS FOR JUSTICE

The aggrieved father passionately appealed to the police high command to not only wade into this case, but also ensure that the circumstances that led to Ejike's death was unravelled and justice prevailed.

He then wondered why anybody would be suspecting foul play in the deaths of Ejike and his driver, who until their death were very close to him