

Council boss' driver crushes girl in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

TRAGEDY struck, weekend, at the Ekeki suburb of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, as a driver attached to a council chairman (name withheld) crushed a two-year-old girl.

The incident, which occurred along Mbiama/Yenagoa Road by Osiri Junction, Saturday at about 3.30p.m., according to eyewitnesses, was caused by recklessness on the part of the driver.

The dead child, identified as Kelechi Favour, was reported to have run into the road and was crushed.

A close staff of the council, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the incident happened during a private visit of the council boss.

The staff said: "After the chairman finished his visit, while trying to move the car to pick his principal, the driver drove in a rough manner and could not control the vehicle when the child suddenly ran into his path."

Some of the family members, however, accused the police of trying to twist the incident report.

However, spokesman of the state Police Command, Mr. Asinim Butswat, said the report available to him did not mention that the driver was involved in the accident.

He said the report from the Ekeki divisional headquarters showed that it was a fatal motor and pedestrian accident.

He said: "On July 31, at about 3.30p.m. along the Mbiama/Yenagoa Road by Osiri Junction, a black Prado SUV, with unknown registration number, over sped and knocked down one Favour Kelechi, a female aged two.

"The victim was rushed to the hospital, but died a few minutes later."

Police investigate officer over land grabbing allegation

By Esther Onyegbula

LAGOS State Police Command is investigating one of its officers, identified as DSP Okon Effiong, over allegation of land grabbing.

It was gathered that Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatia Owoseni, ordered the Officer in Charge of the XSquad Unit Lagos State command, CSP Adenola Johnson, to investigate DSP Effiong, following a petition by a businesswoman, Mrs. Oyebola Bashiru, that DSP Effiong, in connivance with

land grabbers at the Ikorodu area of the state, allegedly sold her land situated at Agbede town, Agric, Ikorodu.

Vanguard learned that in the petition, entitled *Save my soul from DSP Okon and land grabbers*, Mrs Bashiru also alleged that her life was being threatened as the suspected land grabbers had sold a portion of her land to another person and were forcing her to relocate.

The petition read: "Sometime in 2009, I bought a piece of land at Agbede town, Agric, Ikorodu, from one DSP Munam Okon

away. He was, however, forced to carry the dying man to the general hospital. He died on the way.

"An associate of late Ahmed persuaded Kola to report the incident at Ifo Divisional Police headquarters and he was subsequently arrested."

When Vanguard visited the station yesterday, friends and relatives, numbering about 50, were seen milling around the station.

Effiong, a police officer attached to Owutu Police Station.

"I got to know Okon through an agent. Officer Okon sold a plot of land to me for N500, 000 and handed me the documents of the land. I later commenced to develop half plot of my land. I built a three-bedroom flat to lintel stage.

"To my shock, in July 2013, I saw that another structure had been erected on the other half. I called DSP Okon to inform him of the building on my land and he took me to one Wasiu Olo Omo, who claimed that the half plot does not belong to me."