5 men in Enugu accused of invoking death on Lagos bizman

By Hannah Oyelere & Suliat Elemosho

Property of the persons have been arrested by the Police over the death of a Lagos-based businessman, Thomas Ezeugwu, through trial by ordeal.

The late Ezeugwu, 40, reportedly slumped and died at his residence in Ejigbo, Lagos State, without signs of illness on October 6, prompting his relations to take his corpse back to his home town, Nkpologu in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State for burial.

However, the story took a different dimension during preparations for his burial when three young men from the town, who came home for the burial, allegedly called villagers to confess that they conspired with native doctors in Omor town, Anambra State, who gave them concoctions that led to the death of the deceased, because he sold 20 plots of land in the village without their consent.

Based on the revelations, Vanguard learned, detectives from Adani Police Station, invited by the aggrieved villagers, arrested three of the suspects—Okolo, Ezugwu and Ezeugwu.

Native doctors confess

Following their revelations, the two native doctors, Madubuike and Okoye from Omor town, allegedly involved in the invocation of the juju/trial by

ordeal, were arrested.

It was gathered that the native doctors confirmed that the three suspects met them for the invocation of *juju* that was targeted at whoever steps on the said land.

The state's Police spokesman, Ebere Amaraizu, said following the native doctors' revelations, they were arraigned with the other three suspects on November 3 on a two-count charge.

Charges

He said the offences are conspiracy to commit felony to wit; trial by ordeal and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 495 (a) of the Criminal Code cap 30 vol 11 Revised Laws of Enugu State of Nigeria, 2004, and planting an invocation of prohibited juju into a communal land situated at Ogba-Nkpologwu, which caused the death of one Thomas Ezeugwu and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 189 contrary to Section 274 of the Criminal Code Cap 30 vol 11 Revised Laws of Enugu State of Nigeria, 2004.

All the suspects, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges and the case was adjourned to December 1 for further hearing, while the suspects were remanded at the Nsukka Prisons, pending when they will fulfil their bail conditions.

Police

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