

2 die in Owerri Prison, 15 set free

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI — Two inmates of the Federal Prisons Owerri, Onyebuchi Ejimnkonye and Onyebuchi Eke Joseph, were yesterday reported dead while awaiting trial at the Federal Prisons, Owerri.

The prison authorities disclosed this when the Imo State Chief Judge, Justice Paschal Nnadi, visited the establishment for jail delivery.

According to a document prepared by the Deputy Controller of Prison, DCP, Mr. Seye Olukoya Oduntan, the two inmates were listed among those "suffering from terminal

sickness, requiring urgent medical attention or likely to terminate in death".

Responding, the Chief Judge ordered the prison officials to properly inform the court about their death.

"The deaths ought to have been properly communicated to the court before our arrival. I hereby order the prison authorities to immediately forward the report of the dead inmates to the court", Nnadi said.

The Chief Judge was similarly irked that the number of awaiting trial far outweighs the number of convicted persons in the Owerri Prison, adding that he would devote two days for jail delivery in the place.

Nnadi said that chief magistrates will soon visit all the detention facilities in the state.