

# Saturday NEWS

## Murder of Shell staff: Speedy execution of court judgement will ease my pains — Father of deceased

*\*Says my house help and a female tenant sold my son to death  
\*Regrets deceased remains never found till day  
\*As court sentences 5 to death by hanging*

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Davies Iheanachor

ON Tuesday, September 8, 2020, as the Hon Justice George Omereji of the High Court in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, sentenced five accused persons to death by hanging for murder of one Anthony Okoro, the refrain on the lips of his father, High Chief J. N. O. Okoro was, "the only thing that will ease the pains I have been having is that the court judgement should be executed without delay."

For Chief Okoro, the bigger pain in the murder of his son, a Shell staff, was that two masterminds were persons living within same enclosure with his family at his home, No 1 Okoro Street, Off Mangrove Lane, Woji, Obio Akpor Local Government Area of Port Harcourt where the crime happened.

He said, "Miracle Anamuma, one of those condemned to death, was the son of a close friend I brought from my village, Umueze II, Ehime Nbano LGA, Imo state. He used to be the houseboy serving me when I was living with my son, Anthony in the Woji home that I built. Miracle was well taken care of, I even put him in a state card school."

"Oluchi Charles, the lady accused, was my tenant. Sometimes in February 2016, I left all of them in Port Harcourt, gradually relocating to my village in Imo where I decided to settle as a retired police officer. Miracle then remained, living with my son Anthony, the Shell staff."

"On the night of 29th May 2016, Miracle, lured by Oluchi, opened all the gates for the hoodlums to come and shoot my son. My biggest regret is that he was killed for no just cause. He did not take anybody's wife or cheated on any business with anybody. Out of sheer wickedness, my houseboy and former tenant conspired against my son. After looting his house, they even went to withdraw cash from his accounts with his ATM and still shot him."

The gang, on invasion of the house had ransacked Anthony's apartment, took him along with his Range Rover, Optima and Kia Carens with other valuables. Half way they discovered there was no fuel in the Kia. They abandoned it.

As police investigations progressed, it was discovered that Oluchi took the Range Rover to sell in far away Jos where she was once married to a medical doctor. She sold the car, as police found out with a fake name, Lilian Okoro, also impersonating as a lawyer.

Chief Okoro grieved that, "At the time the incident happened, I had in my statement to the police, pointed to Oluchi as prime suspect, because for eight days, she disappeared following the incident. So I wasn't surprised

when her name came up from the buyer of the Range Rover."

"When they took my son away, the kidnappers had called me for N20 Million ransom, warning me not to call in the police because they had a close contact watching. I never knew the contact they referred was my houseboy, Miracle who was feeding them all information."

"I told them the money would be raised, that they should give us time and should not harm my son. They never called again. That was the end. It's still a pain that my son's remains were never recovered till today. I almost went crazy. It affected my health because Tony was breadwinner of the family."

### Trial outcome

Five out of seven accused persons in suit No PHC/324/2017, Oluchi Charles (1st Defendant), Miracle

Anamuma in his 20s (2nd Defendant), Ifeanyi Simon (3rd Defendant), Koko Bassey (4th Defendant) and Uchenna Stanley Amaechi (7th Defendant), were convicted of the 10 charges preferred against them by the Inspector General of Police bordering on conspiracy, stealing, armed robbery, kidnapping and murder.

Chukwudi Etete (5th Defendant) and Anthony Ugwu (6th Defendant) the two other accused were discharged and acquitted by the court. Justice Omereji held that the prosecution proved its case that the first to fourth and seventh accused were guilty as charged.

Omereji in discharging and acquitting the 5th Etete and Ugwu stated that the prosecution could not prove that the duo had knowledge of the crime, rather they, by mistake, bought property

belonging to the victim, Okoro.

Omereji, relying on Section 410 of the Administration of Criminal Justice 2011, sentenced the five convicted persons to death by hanging, adding that they should be held on the rope till confirmed dead.

### Prayer of victim's father

On the accused persons likely motive for the crime, Chief Okoro, "seem to believe they did not mean to kill. Out of stupidity, one of the kidnappers shot him. They were desperate for money. Oluchi, we were told had promised to use part of the ransom to send Miracle, my houseboy overseas."

"I am satisfied with the dispensation of justice as demonstrated in their sentence to death by the court."

"I am praying that the hanging should not take long time, so that justice is obtained quickly. That is what will ease the pains that I have been having."



Father Onochie Dennis flanked from left by Mrs Evelyn Agboegbulem, Master Emmanuel Agboegbulem, Mr Agboegbulem Paulinus, Miss Vivian Agboegbulem, and Mrs Benny Okwechime at the outing service following the burial of Mrs Lucy Agboegbulem at Agbor, Delta State.

## Teacher defiles SSS 3 student in Ogun

By Bose Adelaja

A 26-year-old teacher Mathew Adebayo, was Friday, arrested for defiling a 15-year-old Senior Secondary Student (SSS) 3 student in Sango, Ogun State.

The suspect was a teacher with a private school in Sango area where the victim currently writes her final examination. However, men of the Nigeria Police Force, Sango Division, made the arrest after an official report by the school proprietress.

The suspect was alleged to have forcefully been having unlawful carnal knowledge of the 15-year-old student (name withheld). However, nemesis caught with him when the victim blew the alarm and the matter was reported to the Police, Sango Division.

The SSS3 student who was writing her final examination, was said to have claimed that the suspect had been raping her repeatedly since the resumption of the school in preparation for the WAEC examination.

Also, the proprietress stated further that the said teacher intimidated the victim by telling her that she will not pass the WAEC exams, if she didn't allow him having sex with her, consequence upon which he had been calling her out of the dormitory in the night and taking her to a classroom where he used to have carnal knowledge of her. When the victim could

no longer bear the sexual assault of the randy teacher, she decided to inform the proprietress.

Upon the report, the DPO Sango Division CSP Godwin Idehai, detailed his detectives to the scene where the suspect was promptly arrested. He has made confessional statement admitting the commission of the crime.

## 'PTAD has made pensioners happy despite Covid-19'

THE Executive Secretary of Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD), Dr Chioma Ejikeme, has said despite the coronavirus pandemic, PTAD has brought smiles on the faces of pensioners.

Speaking during the PTAD 2020 Press Conference, Ejikeme said the body initiated and sustained reforms that strengthened the administration of the Defined Benefit Scheme in the country.

"Within the period of one

year, Covid-19 notwithstanding, we have been able to put smiles on the faces of our pensioners. We have sustained and initiated reforms that have strengthened the administration of the Defined Benefit Scheme in the country", she said. According to her, PTAD was able to achieve giant strides in regular payment of monthly pension benefits to pensioners, continuous complaint resolution, payment of inherited liabilities and continuous expansion of information technology infrastructure among others.