

# Saturday **NEWS**

## Seven cousins to die by hanging for killing brother

By Peter Duru, Makurdi

**S**even cousins, Peter, Elias, Chibueze, Emmanuel, Simon, Patrick and Godwin all of Ebere family in Enyikpo Ulayi village in Ado Local Government Area of Benue state have been sentenced to death by hanging by an Otukpo High Court in Benue.

They were yesterday convicted by Justice Wilfred Kpochi for criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide punishable by death.

At the hearing, the court was told how the convicts conspired and agreed among themselves to killed their brother, one Vincent Ebere with Cutlasses and sticks with which they bruised and matcheted him on the head on December 25, 2012 which led to his death.

Delivering judgement, Justice Kpochi turned down the plea of *allocatus* by the defendants, insisting that it was of no effect hence the punishment for the heinous crime was mandatory.

He held that the prosecution had

proved its case beyond all reasonable doubts and accordingly sentenced all the accused to death by hanging.

Speaking shortly after the judgement,

the prosecuting Chief State Counsel, Mr. Ada Ocholi who lauded the judgement said it would serve as deterrent to others since nobody was permitted to take the laws into their hands.

On her part, wife of the deceased Mrs. Felicia

Ebere and his brother Chukwuma commended the Court for the judgement and the judiciary for the manner the case was handled.

They expressed happiness that justice had been served in the matter.



Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar (L) assisted by Mrs Zainab Kebiru to decorate AVM Kabiru Aliyu with his new rank, during the decoration of newly promoted Airforce officers in Abuja on Friday. Jimah Suleman/BJO/NAN

## Your re-election, a testimony of your performance — Obasanjo tells Akufo-Addo

By James Ogunnaike

**F**ormer Nigerian President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has

described the re-election of the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo for the second term, as a

result of his performance in office.

He therefore charged him to remain as enthusiastic, as energetic, as focused, and as committed as he