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Suspected ritualist dies inside grave in Enugu

By Ikechukwu Odu

NSUKKA—A witch-doctor who was contracted to exhume the dead body of a woman, collapsed and died inside the woman's grave.

The witch doctor, Idike Ezikanyi, from Uwani-Amagbo, Amabokwu village in Aku town, Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State, was allegedly recruited by one Chukwuma Nnadi and other members of his family to secretly dig up the dead body of his wife, late Stella Oriaku Nnadi, who was buried within her husband's compound about five years ago.

Vanguard gathered that on the fateful night, the Nnadi family got more than they bargained for when the witch-doctor they recruited for the ugly job suddenly shouted from the grave, begging the ghost of the dead woman to have mercy on him.

However, before those lagging around knew what was happening, Idike Ezikanyi, who tried to jump out of the half-dug out grave fell back and died instantly.

Sources revealed that Chukwuma, the husband of the late woman, recently yielded to pressure by his family members to secretly

exhume the body of his late wife and throw it away so that her spirit would be blinded from disturbing those living in the house, which she built.

The sources said the family members of the husband hated his late wife with passion and even disinherited their son because the late wife, Oriaku nee Egwete from Oshigo village, was physically challenged.

She suffered a serious infection in infancy, which affected her leg permanently. They didn't want their son to marry her even though the son depended on the lady, who was very industrious despite her deformity to survive.

Despite their pressure and blackmail, the man and lady stuck to each other until they finally got married and to the surprise of their detractors, the young couple started and completed a three-bedroom house of their own.

The sources further alleged that the jealousy and recrimination against her subsequently escalated as it was revealed that the lady stepped on a charm laid for her in her house and after a protracted illness died.

It was gathered that after she died mysteriously, the husband's family refused to pay her full bride price, which

was outstanding before her death and also failed to accord her full burial rites.

Time ticked away and when the family members, who despised her, felt that everything has quietened, they decided to pack into the house she built. It was discovered that out of a feeling of guilt and fear of spiritual repercussion, they contracted the witch-doctor, who was notorious for attacking graves in the dead of night to exhume her body and throw it into an evil forest.

It was during the bizarre occasion that her ghost fought back and instantly killed the violator of her resting place.

In another intriguing development, one of the sisters of the husband, who was part of those who arranged for the witch-doctor, visited the ritualist's house to mourn with them.

It was revealed that immediately the lady finished crying she instantly suffered a stroke and was evacuated back to her home in Umuidu Amabokwu.

The family of the wife, whose body they attempted to exhume has since gone to the scene, but the husband, Chukwuma, has reportedly fled from his home.