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## Man dies during fortification ritual in Enugu

By Alumona Ukwueze

SUKKA—An Onitsha-based businessman, identified as Chikwado Eze, has died in a grave at Inyi, a community in Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Vanguard gathered that the deceased, who hailed from Ugbaike community, also in the aforementioned council area had secured a visa to travel abroad for his business but needed fortification for more fortunes in his business.

It was learnt that he approached a native doctor at Inyi who among other items he demanded from the late Eze, insisted that he must be buried in a grave for one and a half hours to get adequately fortified for his business trip.

It was further learnt that the deceased had gone to the native doctor with his father. Uwakwe, on the fateful day for the rituals and that aftersome merriment, the native doctor asked the father and other guests to excuse them so they could perform the rituals.

Vanguard further gathered that the late Eze was lowered into the grave and covered with the earth for the stipulated period of one hour and 30 minutes.

However, trouble started when he was exhumed and instead of being fortified, he was weak and covered in a pool of sweat. Seeing the danger ahead, it was learnt that the native doctor started incantations to revive him all to no avail.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that he was rushed to a hospital at the local government headquarters. Ogrute, where doctors on duty pronounced him dead, adding that the father and the native doctor had been arrested by the police for interrogation.

It was also learned that the father, who was earlier ostracized by the Ugbaike community for his alleged involvement in dangerous chains, denied forcing his late son to the native doctor's place, adding that "he had already bought all the items before inviting him for the rituals."

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