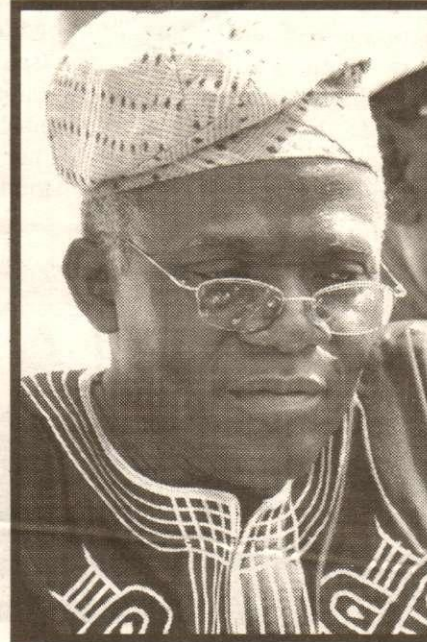
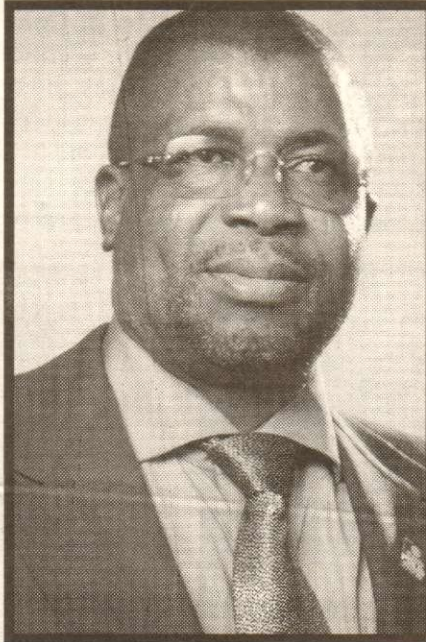


Billionaire Emeka Offor In Messy Human Rights Scandal

• Accused Of Using The Police To Intimidate His Kinsmen

Billionaire businessman and Chairman, Chrome Group of Companies, Emeka Offor, is in the eye of a storm at present, in the wake of serious allegations leveled against the Oraifite, Anambra State native by prominent legal practitioner and human rights crusader, Femi Falana SAN. The law firm, in the first week of April, 2014, addressed a petition, signed by Sam Ogala, on behalf of Falana, to the IGP, the Police Service Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission, and accused Sir E, as Offor is popularly known, of "using the police hierarchy to commit monumental and scandalous human rights abuses against his own kinsmen." According to the petition, Offor used men of the SARS, based at Awkuzu in Oyi LGA of Anambra State, to arrest an Onitsha-based businessman who hails from the same town, Oraifite. He was picked up recently, we learnt, because he complained publicly to the Oraifite people that Mr. Offor deliberately caused the Customs Department to seize to his nine 40-foot containers

with goods worth N970 million, on false charges. HSM further gathered that the embittered man went online with the complaint, and wrote that, "As a result of this seizure, I was crippled financially through, the machination of someone I confided in as a brother, friend, and townsman." Emeka Offor is also being accused, in addition to the above, of used SARS officers to arrest three brothers, Ifeanyi, Chinedu, and Tochukwu Igboanuzue over a family tiff following the demise of their sister, Joy. It was hinted that it is an abomination to do so to those in mourning. The three brothers, Lagos-based businessmen, were picked up in December, 2013, and



Oraifite people. Mr. Falana's legal firm accused Mr. Offor of instigating officers attached to SARS, Nnewi, to arrest one Ifeanyi Nwokolo, an Nnewi-based businessman, as well as his cousin, Nnewi-based Muozube, who were struggling over a piece of land near Offor's country home. The petition went on to say that Offor, "... a supposed knight of the Anglican

were detained until March, 2014, when an Anambra High Court, sitting in Nnewi, ordered that they should be released. But the brothers' travails were not over yet, for, shortly after they were released from detention, Emeka Offor allegedly caused the police to re-arrest the Igboanuzue brothers, who were, this time, charged with murder at the Ozubulu Magistrate Court. Their offence, it was reported, was disagreeing with their brother, Sunday, who happens to be one of Offor's closest aides. The petition also

Church who acquired a third wife only last January 3 at a public show in his village, caused SARS men to arrest in January four members of the Ayaka Cultural Group, accusing them of cultism and detaining them till March, 2014, when the court ordered their release." Again, we gathered, in 2012, the same Emeka Offor was alleged to have used the police to disrupt the annual New Yam Festival at Ezumeri community, on the pretext that the highly revered event was being held without police permit. The real reason, it was gathered, was that he wanted to humiliate some prominent citizens from the area, notably Chuks

ABSOLUT PARTNERS MTV FOR MAMAS 2014

As part of its support for creativity and transformation in young individuals, Absolut Vodka is partnering with MTV to organize this year MTV Africa Music Awards (MAMA). The event is scheduled to take place later in June at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban, South Africa. The nominations for the awards will be revealed on 16 April 2014 with new additions like the "Transform Today Award" sponsored by Absolut Vodka. The new award is to celebrate the power of young individuals to transform the image of Africa through their creativity and vision. Others are the Lifestyle Award, the Nelson Mandela Leadership Award and Personality of the Year Award. Sola Oke, Marketing Director of Pernod Ricard Nigeria, said: "In each generation there are a handful of artists who leave transformative marks and the MAMA most certainly celebrates those artists who are at the cutting-edge of the change in the music industry here in Africa. And Absolut will continue to push the boundaries of contemporary culture through creative collaborations, so we are thrilled to be a part of the awards that celebrate artists who define and transform music in Africa." The build-up to the main show tagged "Road to MAMA" will showcase events in Lagos - Nigeria, Durban - South Africa and (Tanzania) featuring MAMA nominees alongside the most current local artists and DJs. It is a celebration of African musicians and achievers who have made the most impact on the contemporary music scene throughout the year. Mr. Oke also announced that as part of Absolut's partnership with the MAMAs, there would be a series of exciting events to include one of a kind Absolut Experience Parties

amongst other activities in bars, supermarkets and clubs in Nigeria. He said, "These events are being held in order to share the Absolut experience with our consumers and also the opportunity to reward them with exciting packages which would include tickets to, the Absolut Experience Parties, the Road to MAMAs events in Lagos, and ultimately, exclusive tickets to the MAMA event in South Africa." Commenting on the awards, Alex Okosi, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, Viacom International Media Networks Africa recalled that the MTV Africa Music Awards will be taking place in South Africa for the first time in its new evolution and the team is excited that Durban will be the backdrop for showcasing Africa's best talent to the world. Furthermore, it will feature stunning performances from African and international artists with signature collaborations between artists of different genres and cultures. Artists will be recognised in thirteen different categories including Best Male, Best Female and Best New Act. The 2014 MTV Africa Music Awards will premiere on MTV Base (DStv Channel 322), MTV (DStv Channel 130) and other partner channels around the continent from June 2014. The 2014 award is open to all artists whose music videos have received airplay on MTV Base (DStv Channel 322) or MTV (DStv Channel 130) during the qualifying period. MAMA was first staged in 2008 and it has recognised the talents of musicians from across sub-Saharan Africa, rewarding iconic artists like 2Face Idibia, Big Nuz, HHP, P-Square, Liquideep, Lira, Nameless, Wahu, Fallypupa, Cabo Snoop, Mo Chedda, Zebra & Giraffe and many more.

“The petition also alleged that Mr. Offor had mater-minded the SARS arrest and torture of an international businessman, Comrade Bonny Okonkwo, also an Oraifite native, who was reportedly removed forcibly from Lagos on July 17, 2013 and detained at Abuja until August 23”

alleged that Mr. Offor had mater-minded the SARS arrest and torture of an international businessman, Comrade Bonny Okonkwo, also an Oraifite native, who was reportedly removed forcibly from Lagos on July 17, 2013 and detained at Abuja until August 23, when Chief Magistrate Dahiru of the Kubwa Court, FCT, ordered his release. The Comrade's problems arose after he authored an allegedly 'disrespectful' article against Offor, which was published on Mbala Obodo, an online web-site of

Muomah, the first SAN from Oraifite. Summing up, the petition fumed that, "This reckless and unconscionable use of the police to commit gross human rights abuses and other heinous crimes tends to give both Nigerian citizens and the international community the impression that Nigeria is a weak state, if not a failed one." The petition asked the police not to accept the Area Command Office which Offor is said to be building for the police in his hometown. Their reason? "The facility will definitely end up as a house of torture for everyone in Oraifite who may disagree with the controversial government contractor on any issue. If he could currently use SARS so recklessly to hound, harass, detain, and torture a number of his people over civil issues, no one can imagine what will happen to innocent and law-abiding citizens when an entire police command is located in his own house through his so-called benevolence."