

How Police Arrested Serial Killer Who Murdered Bus Drivers, Stole Their Vehicles



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Tunji Disu Is Round Peg In Round Hole, Says Odumakin

...7 others also murdered

A 31-year-old man, Kelechi Nwofurum, has been arrested by officers of the Rivers State Police Command for allegedly killing commercial bus drivers and stealing their vehicles.



Detectives from the Command also arrested four accomplices who joined the serial killer to murder bus drivers and then escape with their buses and thereafter resell them.

The suspect, who hails from the Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state, reportedly lured the last victim which led to his arrest, 51-year-old Ifeanyi Abobo, under the pretence of engaging him for a transport job involving the movement of wood. He was then taken into a bush where he was attacked and killed, his corpse was buried.

The then Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the command, CSP Grace Iringe-koko, in a video confirmed the incident that the suspect struck the driver repeatedly with a stick, and a machete until the victim became unconscious, after which his bus was stolen and later sold to accomplices.

She said a case of kidnapping cum murder was reported against the suspect on March 25 and the suspect confessed to luring his victims under the pretence of carrying some wood he had already bought from the bush.

Unknown to the victims, that the suspect had ulterior motive, in the process of the victims gathering the wood, the suspect hit them with wood and when the victims tries to resist he uses his cutlass to hit him again untill he slumps and become unconscious and he then later escapes with the victim's vehicle.

The suspect will then sell the deceased bus and phone. On April 6, operatives of the Command in an intelligence led investigation carried out by the Special Operations and Intelligence Team attached to the command arrested him.

The police Spokesperson said those who bought the vehicle and the phone of the deceased were also arrested. She said during preliminary investigation, the suspect was linked to seven other cases of murder and vehicle snatching in different parts of the state, noting that he had previously lured other drivers under similar pretences before dispossessing them of their vehicles.

Genesis

Nwofurum said last year October he came to Port Harcourt and met a driver, when he was about to alight from the driver's bus they exchanged phone contacts and promised to talk later on business.

"Few days later when I called the driver, I told him we are going on a surveillance work and he accepted and we got to location where we went to do the surveillance work, I started doing something as if I am working.

The driver then joined me in what I was doing, I left him to pick up a wood and hit him from behind and when he stood up and tried to resist me I then used cutlass to hit him again. "Immediately, I hit him with the cutlass he slumped and became unconscious, when I noticed he was unconscious I took his vehicle and phone and ran away."

First operation

Kelechi said his first operation was in December 18, 2025, when he negotiated with a bus driver that they were going on a surveillance work. He said they both went to the place in the bush to buy what he told the driver they came to buy, but he didn't buy anything.

He said: "I only lured him to the bush area where it will be easy for me to kill him and escape with his vehicle and his phone. "When the driver joined me in what I was doing I hit him with cutlass and wood and, after noticing he was unconscious I ran away with his vehicle and then sold it.

"I'm only doing it to survive, I was introduced to the business by a friend who is now dead. Because of the money I am making from the business I decided not to stop." He further said, "it's still the same person who helped me to sell the first stolen vehicle that also helped me to sell others."

Third operation

In the third operation of the suspect, he also used the same trick he used on the other drivers. He said he will hit them with wood on the head in order for the person to become unconscious or probably die in the process.

"Firstly, I normally use wood to hit any of the drivers, but when they try to resist me that is when I will then use cutlass to hit such driver, immediately the driver falls down I will escape with the vehicle. "I sold the vehicle to one Alhaji through my cousin, but the vehicle was later recovered by the police and the driver didn't die.

When I was arrested I saw him at the police station where I was detained. I begged him for forgiveness, he forgave me. "When I was released on bail, because the driver of the bus didn't die I went back to the business, before I was finally arrested."

Fourth operation

On his fourth operation, he was arrested through the phone of one of the drivers. He said he still used the same trick on the driver to collect the vehicle from the driver. "Police tracked the bus driver's phone to the person I sold it for and through the person police came for me and got me arrested."

I was taken to the scene of the incident with the person who bought the vehicle. "It was when we got to the scene of the crime that I knew that all the drivers I hit with wood and cutlass didn't survive the attack. My thought was that they all survived my attack or probably escaped after I left the scene of the accident."

Forged document

Nwofurum said for him to be able to sell the stolen vehicles he will go to Anambra State to forge new document for him to sell them. When he noticed he wouldn't be able to use the original documents of the vehicles to sell it, he always travel to Anambra State to get a new documents with his name written on it.

"When I got to Anambra State I met a lawyer who helped me to do agreement of ownership. When I showed it to the person who wanted to help me sell the vehicle he believed it was the original document.

"He believed I was the owner of the vehicle. That was why I was able to sell the first vehicle. On the second vehicle I did same document to sell it. Nothing happened to me. Until I was arrested over the last operation.

Selling of stolen vehicles

Whenever he wanted to steal vehicles he goes to the road, stop any driver of his choice and tell the person he needed his service.

Kelechi said he contacts his cousin, one Azubuike Onyemachi, immediately he disposes of the driver of the vehicle and then he linked him with a motor parts dealer, one Ubu Basille Ikenna, who allegedly bought the stolen vehicle for N2.4 million.

He further claimed that the vehicle was later resold to another buyer for N3.4 million, while the victim's mobile phone was sold for N45,000. That was the last operation that led to his arrest.

"I sold of the vehicle whose driver didn't die for N1.4 million, that was when I was arrested. "My intention was to steal from the drivers and sell their vehicles, hit them with cutlass so that they won't be able to retaliate or locate me, even if they regain consciousness, I didn't plan to kill the drivers."

Regret actions

The suspect told the police that he regretted his actions, and appealed to the police and the families of the deceased drivers who died during robbery to forgive him. "I will not be happy if my wife, children and especially my mother see me on television or on social media about the crime I committed.

I am a disgrace to them. "I want God to forgive me of my sins, because I don't know what will happen to me after. It's the society and peer pressure that pushed me to the situation I found myself. I sincerely regret my actions."

Victim's body exhumed

According to Iringe-koko, the victim's body had been exhumed by police operatives, while investigations are ongoing and the suspects would be charged to court upon completion of the investigation. Iringe-Koko also warned members of the public against purchasing used items without verifying proof of ownership, cautioning that such transactions could involve proceeds of crime.

Spare parts seller

Mr. Ugobasi Ikenna, a spare parts seller said Azubuiké called him that there was a bus his cousin wanted to sell, but told him he was not financially buoyant when he was told. Ikenna said it was when he got money that he called Azubuiké that he was interested in the vehicle. He called him to confirm if the vehicle was still available or not.

"Azubuiké and I then went to check the vehicle, after inspecting the vehicle, Kelechi told me he wanted to sell it for three million naira, when I demanded for the document of the vehicle, he said it was not with him at that spot, but promised to bring it.

"I gave him four hundred thousand naira to go get the documents of the vehicle, he left the vehicle with his brother and went to get the documents, but the vehicle was later parked at my house for safety.

"When I didn't see Kelechi with the paper I went to the police station to report that I gave someone money to bring documents for a vehicle I bought. Because I don't know what is delaying him." Ikenna added that, the following day when Kelechi brought the documents, he went back to report to the police

that the person has brought the documents and it has been given to him.

"Initially, when I first made a report at the police station, I was told that if he didn't bring the documents after two days I should drive the vehicle to their station so that they would do something about it. "The following day I called them that he has brought the documents.

I saw the original document and the lawyer agreement, I also confirmed it that it has been registered in the government system. Few days later police arrested me that I bought a stolen vehicle, it was when I got to the station that I saw Kelechi that he had been arrested and detained in the cell.

It was in the cell I was told that the vehicle was a stolen vehicle." Ikenna said he was surprised when Kelechi told him he killed the person that owned the vehicle. "I was surprised when he told me he killed the person that owned it. "Before I was arrested, I have resold the vehicle for N 3.44 million. I spent four hundred thousand naira to put the vehicle in order before selling it."

Buyer

The buyer who identified himself as Imausonate from Edo State but resides in Port Harcourt said he does supply to supermarkets. He said the vehicle he was using earlier was very small for his business and decided to buy a bigger one that will take a lot of goods, especially a mini bus.

"It is someone who introduced Ikenna to me that he has a bus he wanted to sell, when I got to his shop he told me that the mini bus was in a nearby workshop where they are working on it and I went to check it. "When we got to the workshop where they were working on it, I check it. I tested the vehicle and Ikenna asked me to drop something if I needed the vehicle, which I did.

Because I was interested in the vehicle I committed myself with N1 million. "After some days he called me to come pay the balance that the vehicle had been fixed and the original documents are also ready. When I got to his shop I saw the proof of purchase of the vehicle. We did agreement and I paid him the balance and went away with the vehicle."

Imausonate noted that few days later, he received a call that his service was needed to do a supply, I was at home on the fateful Saturday when Policemen came to my house to arrest me.

I never knew it was Policemen that called me to come do supply. "Immediately I was arrested I was taken to the police station, I never knew the vehicle was a stolen one. It was at the police station that I got to know that the vehicle was a stolen one. I am sorry."

Phone buyer

Mr. Felix Ndukwe said he was at home washing his clothes when his phone rang. "Immediately I picked the phone the person told me he's a customer that he wanted to buy something at my shop. "I told the person who called me to wait till after environmental sanitation, when I eventually got to my shop it was Kelechi I saw.

He has been coming to my shop to buy something from me before now. "He told me his father died and he needed money and he wanted to sell one of his phones. He said he doesn't have money but wanted to travel to their village over the death of his father that he wanted to use the money for transportation back home.

"I told him I don't buy phones without the receipt. I also asked for the cartoon of the phone. He told me he had torn the cartoon. He also told me he wanted to sell it for sixty thousand naira, but I later bought it for forty five thousand naira, few days later policemen came to arrest me."

Police

Iringe-koko however advised mini bus drivers association not to give out their vehicles and also to verify whoever they are doing business with, "you never can tell, the deal you want to enter into may end up your life.