Police quiz poly mgt over contractor's death

By Victor Sorokwu, Asaba | Published Date Apr 20, 2019 4:52 AM



Seven top management staff of the Ogwashi-Uku Polytechnic in Delta State are currently being quizzed by the police over alleged complicity in the death of a contractor to the polytechnic.

43-year-old Prince Chukwuebo, an indigene of Ogwashi-uku and a contractor with the institution since 2010, was reportedly killed within the school premises.

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Daily Trust learnt that his decomposing body was later found in one of the uncompleted buildings about three days after. It was learnt that the deceased, who until his death, was the Asaba branch youth president of Ogwashi-Uku community, had instituted a court case against the school management for unlawfully terminating his contract.

Daily Trust gathered that while the suit subsisted, there were moves for out of court settlement and the deceased had been allegedly invited by the school authorities to offset his remaining contract money owed him during the former Rector, Dr. Andy Egwuyenga's tenure.

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According to sources within the school, Prince Chukwuebo arrived the school for the collection of the about N13 million, being fees for printed identity cards and other jobs he executed for the school and went straight to meet with the Rector, Prof. Stella Chinye Chiemeke and some top management staff for the payment.

The sources further said the meeting held behind closed doors and the resolution was not made known before news of the deceased's body was found lying in an uncompleted building inside the school compound.

Family sources hinted that the deceased's wife was the first to raise the alarm over the death of her husband, as she was said to have gone to the school to demand the whereabouts of her husband, having waited for his return throughout the night. He earlier told her he was going to the school for his money.

Daily Trust learnt that the wife was prevented by the gatemen from entering the school premises.

The wife became suspicious and raised alarm that attracted onlookers who assisted her to inform the police at Ogwashi-Uku Division, where some management staff were questioned and transferred to the police headquarters in Asaba, the state capital.

The school's spokesman, Mr. Manfred Oyibode, said the body of Prince Chukwuebo was found dead in an uncompleted building, and the police were investigating the matter, adding "there's nothing to say now since the matter is being investigated by the police, please let wait for the police report".

The Police Commissioner, Mr. Adeyinka Adeleke, said: "Prince was indeed found dead in the school premises, but we have invited and questioned as many as possible, including some management staff because it is a big organisation."

He said investigation was ongoing, while a postmortem was being awaited to ascertain the cause of death.