

How popular Bayelsa baker was allegedly strangled

By Julius Osahon, Yenagoa | 22 April 2021 | 3:03 am



Late George

Fresh facts have emerged of how a popular award-winning Bayelsa-based baker, Temple George, was strangled to death in his apartment along Old Mr Biggs Road, Opolo, in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

According to neighbours' account, the deceased, a 30-year-old indigene of Kalabari Kingdom in Rivers State, was reportedly strangled to death on Friday night by two assailants.

It was learnt that the lifeless body of the late baker was discovered by his friends, family members and landlord at about 4 p.m. on Saturday, in his bathroom, after several calls put across to him by some of his clients failed.

A close source said: "The deceased was always alone and doesn't look for trouble, always busy with what he knows how to do best. You can never find him where you see people fighting or arguing because he rarely even had time for such.

"He was a very good baker who won several awards in cake baking and was doing very well in his profession. He was trained some years back during a vocational skill acquisition programme sponsored by his church, Salvation Ministries, and since then, he was progressing because of his ability to be very creative and simple."

Narrating what she witnessed on the night before the death of the baker, a neighbour said: "That same night, I saw him with two people and I didn't suspect anything because he was with them downstairs and they were talking normally. I passed and went to my own apartment to sleep since it was night.

“Later, I heard a shout but I didn’t know where it was coming from though I still made efforts to verify where the noise was coming from but I didn’t see anybody. So, I slept off.

“It was in the evening when some people came to the compound to ask for him because they haven’t seen him in the office and that after several calls to him without success, they had come to check on him. So, at that point, we had to ensure the police came around before his door was forcefully opened.

“I was surprised when we saw his lifeless body in the bathroom of his apartment. What has George done to deserve this kind of gruesome murder from unknown persons?” she said.

A close family source said that it was the third attempt on his life.

The Bayelsa State Police Command, in a statement signed by its spokesman, SP Asinim Butswat, said that the Commissioner of Police, Mike Okoli, had ordered a discreet investigation into the circumstances that led to the death of Temple George.

According to him, “Preliminary investigation reveals that the body of the deceased was discovered by his landlord on April 17, 2021, at his apartment at Opolo, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

“The scene was visited by police detectives, and the body was removed to the Federal Medical Centre mortuary for autopsy.

“The case has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for proper investigation.”

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