

Man Stabs Friend To Death Over N10,000

• I Never Meant To Kill Him, Says Suspect

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Residents of Nasamu Street, Ajegunle, Apapa, Lagos, were treated to a gory spectacle penultimate Tuesday, following the death of a 27-year-old man, Anayo Egesimmba, who was allegedly stabbed to death by one of his acquaintances, Afam Samuel. The late Anayo, who owned a music shop was sent to his early grave, during a fight with his assailant, 20-year-old Samuel, currently cooling his heels at the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) Panti Street, Yaba, Lagos.

In a chat with *Daily Independent*, Afam who wore a remorseful look all through, apparently never bargained for all that transpired in what he described as "within a twinkle of an eye."

If it were possible to turn back the hands of the clock, Afam would have wished he never insisted on collecting his money from the deceased forcibly during an argument that brought him to police custody.

He recalled with pains, how he left his hometown, Imo State for Lagos, about nine years ago, and with a

promise to conduct himself in a proper manner, as he bade his folks goodbye.

On arriving Lagos, he squatted in his uncle's house in Ajegunle, enrolled in one of the secondary schools in Tolu Village, Ajegunle. After school hours, he helped his uncle in his provisions store.

On how he got himself entangled in the murder case, he recalled, "Along the line, I made acquaintance with the deceased, Anayo. I was always going to spend time with him in his shop. So, during one of our staying together, he encouraged me to go into savings. He suggested I should be contributing N1,000 every month, which would be kept in his care. He said by the time the money got to a reasonable amount, I could use it to set up any business of my choice, so that I would neither depend on anybody to make a living nor have to wait for anyone to assist me to set up my own business."

"I actually obliged and started contributing the money last year. I used to pick money from my uncle's sales on daily basis. At times I would take N200, N100 or less, depending on the day's sales, until the end of the month when it would have amounted to N1,000. But at

a point, I started getting disturbed with the way I was stealing from my uncle because business was no longer the way it used to be. I started having a change of heart because the man in question had been good to me. It is not easy for someone to go to the village and pick his brother, accommodate him and register him in school. Also, I started losing confidence in Anayo, as I reasoned he might not mean well, and so might not be keeping the money for me, after all.

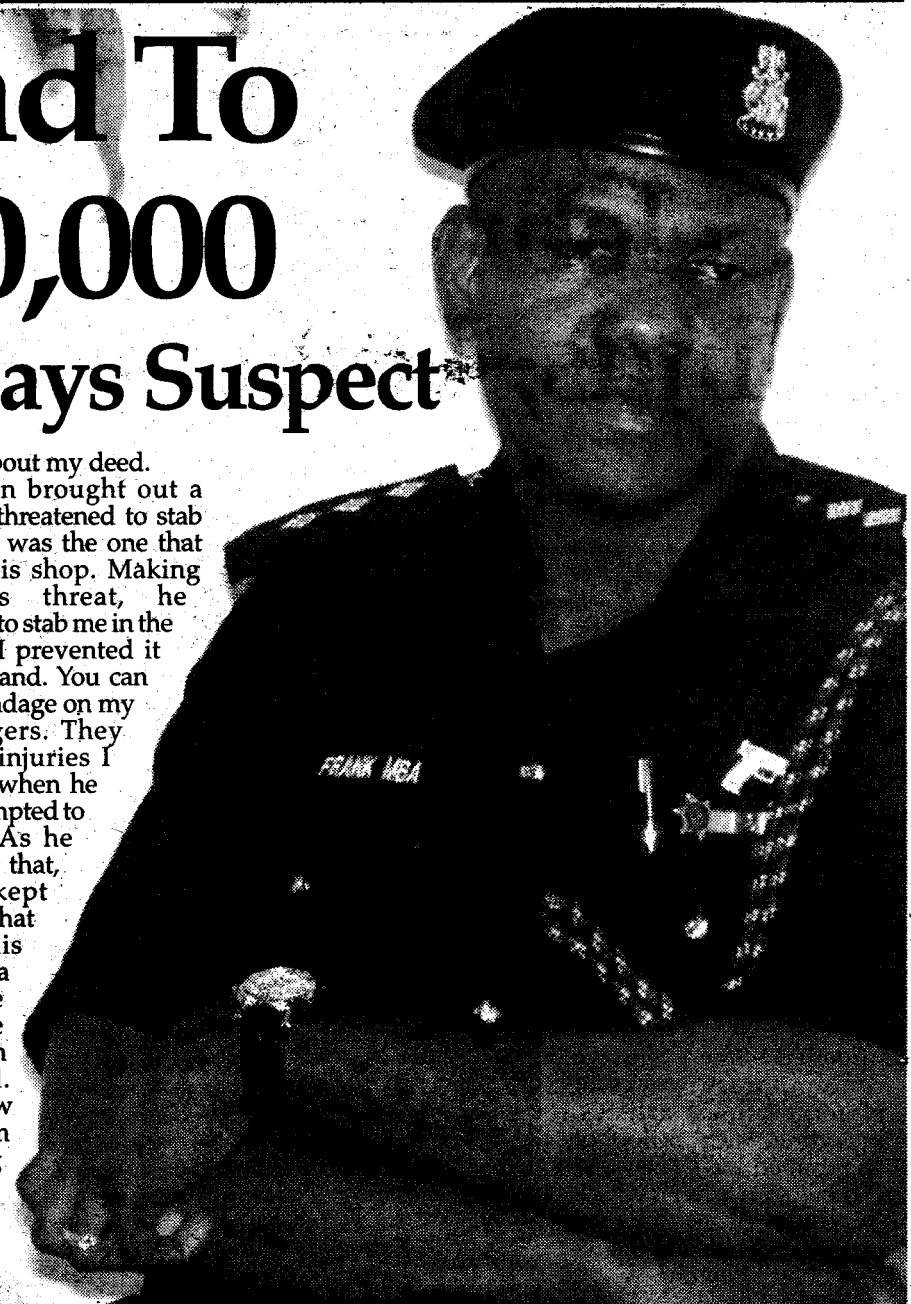
"So, on February 22, 2009, I made up my mind and walked up to him in his shop and told him I was no longer interested in the contribution. Immediately I said it, his looks changed; I noticed he was not happy. But rather than responding, he said I should get out of his shop, calling me a small boy. I did not say anything because that was his way. I suggested he gave me a date to come for the money.

At that point, he became serious and ordered me out, saying he would teach me a lesson I would live to remember all my life. Instead of me taking my leave I refused to go. I could not shout because of what my uncle could do to me if he got

to know about my deed.

"He then brought out a knife and threatened to stab me since I was the one that came to his shop. Making good his threat, he attempted to stab me in the chest but I prevented it with my hand. You can see the bandage on my three fingers. They were the injuries I sustained when he thrice attempted to stab me. As he was doing that, he kept shouting that leave his shop. At a point, he stabbed me on the thigh and I fell. When I saw him surging toward me again, I knew he meant business and I thought I had to act fast by defending myself before he killed me.

"That was when I picked a bottle on the ground, broke it and stabbed him as he lifted his hand to stab me again. I noticed he fell down and could not stand up. I then



• Frank Mba, Lagos PPRO

decided to take to my heels before he would charge at me in a fury. As I made to leave, I noticed he was still on the ground. And just then he let out a shout, which attracted people in the neighbourhood. I was later

told he died before he could be rushed to the hospital. I swear to God, I never meant to kill him," he insisted.

The suspect, according to Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, would soon be arraigned in court.