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Grocer 'kills' man over N10 cigarette

Posted by: Ruqayat Jimoh in City Beats 10 hours ago

A 42-year-old grocer, Alli Mustapha, has appeared before the Ebute Meta Chief Magistrate's Court in Lagos for 'killing' a customer, Idowu Maliki, over N10 cigarette.

Maliki, it was learnt, bought the cigarette from Mustapha, a native of Ayuru in Niger State, but refused to pay.

Trouble began when Mustapha stopped Maliki from entering his shop at Imope compound in Ikotun on the outskirts of Lagos to pick another item without paying the debt.

A fight ensued and the deceased hit Mustapha with a wooden stool severally.

After they were separated, the deceased was said to have picked up a bottle and insisted on continuing fighting.

Mustapha told the court that he hit Maliki on the head with a stick in self-defence and the deceased collapsed.

According to him, he tried to save Maliki life by pouring water on him. His efforts failed as Maliki was confirmed dead at Igando General Hospital.

The charge reads: "That you, Alli Mustapha on March 7 around 7:05pm at 5 Imope compound, Ikotun, Lagos, in the Lagos magisterial district did unlawfully kill one Idowu Maliki by hitting him with a stick on his head and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 221 of the Criminal Law of Lagos."

Prosecuting police Inspector Cousin Adams prayed the court to remand Mustapha in prison custody pending legal advice from the Office of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for 30 days in the first instance.

Mustapha pleaded not guilty. His plea for bail was not taken.

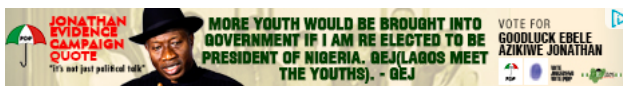
Magistrate F.J Adefioye ordered the defendant remanded for 30 days in prison pending legal advice from DPP office.

He adjourned till May 25.

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