

Man, 65, dies in police cell

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Minna

A 65 YEARS-Old man, Mohammed Sani, has died in a police cell in Minna, Niger state due to unknown circumstances while being interrogated by the police for an alleged offence of theft.

Sani was arrested last Wednesday and taken to the Minna Central Police station after two staff of Bomas Supermarket confessed to have given the deceased half of the 700,000 naira they reportedly stolen from the supermarket.

He was allegedly tortured to death by men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Niger State Police Command on Friday night.

It was learnt that while at the Minna Central Police station, Sani was allegedly made to sniff tear gas before he was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) headquarters for further interrogation by SARS.

Sani, who was a drycleaner to the director and staff of Bomas supermarket was said to have confessed that he discovered the stolen money when one of the suspects brought a bag of clothes for him to wash, adding that the money was hidden inside the bag.

He was said to have called the attention of the suspect when he discovered that there was money in the bag, stating that he was given N5,000 in appreciation for being honest as the staff collected the money.

It was also learnt that the director of the supermarket alerted the police over the missing money from his shop and all the workers in the supermarket were arrested. On interrogations, two of the suspects confessed to have stolen the money and claimed to have given N700,000 to the dry cleaner.

Sani denied collecting N700,000 from the suspects insisting that he was given only N5,000. This reportedly infuriated the police who subjected him to further interrogation and torture that led to his death.

When contacted, the Niger state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Richard Oguche confirmed the death of the suspect but insisted that Sani did not die as a result of the torture meted on him by the police, adding that the deceased died of cardiac arrest and was not killed by the police.