



FAMILY members of a 43-year-old woman, Mrs Basirat Alabi, are currently at war with her husband, Mr Ismaila (47) over the sudden death and mysterious death of the woman on Tuesday, May 20. They are accusing him of causing the deceased's death by beating her with a charm during a quarrel. This has led to the arrest of Mr Alabi who is currently a guest of the police at Eleyele Division where he is being interrogated over the reported issue.

It was learnt that at about 5.15p.m on the fateful day, the Divisional Police officer in charge of Eleyele Division, Ayoola Olawole, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, received information from an unknown caller that Alabi killed his wife in a mysterious manner. On receipt of the information, the DPO went to the scene with detectives where the corpse of a woman, identified as Basirat Alabi (43)

was found laid in front of Alabi's house.

Police investigations were said to have revealed that the suspect had rancour with his wife three days before her death on the issue of phone. Alabi reportedly seized his wife's phone after suspecting her of receiving calls from strange men.

The mother of eight (she had seven for her husband and had one before marrying him) was said to have left home for her mother's house at Apete area of Ibadan. Though the nature of her illness was not disclosed, all efforts to restore her back to normal health proved abortive.

Before her death however, the woman reportedly opened up to her mother that her husband beat her with a charm, pleading that he should forgive her. It was after this she gave up the ghost. Based on this, family members of the deceased believed that the man beat his wife with charms, hence her death.

Crime Reports learnt that the suspect was immediately arrested while the corpse was taken to State Hospital, Ring Road and deposited in the mortuary for autopsy.

But the suspect denied the allegation, saying that he did not beat his wife, not to talk of hitting her with a charm. He placed a curse on himself that he should die mysteriously if he was responsible for wife's death. He also said he was ready to go along with the family on any step they might want to take traditionally to find the cause of his wife's death.

According to Alabi, "On Friday, May 16, my wife came to me around 9.30a.m. and told she was going to her sister's place at Apete area. She asked for the N700 she borrowed me to give our children, saying she wanted to use it as transport fare, but I replied that I had no money with me. I even collected her bag in which I saw money and jokingly told her that I knew she had money but just wanted the one she spent on my behalf.

"She did not come back that day but it was nothing unusual, as she used to go like that and would spend three to five days before returning home. On Sunday, May 18, her sister at Apete, known as Ruka, called my stepdaughter, Tawa, who is my wife's first child for another man before she married me. Ruka asked the girl to come to Apete.

"On Monday morning, I asked the girl if she saw her mother but she said she did not, informing me that she was told her mother fell ill but the ailment was not disclosed. She said her aunty asked her to come back the following day so that she would be taken to the hospital where her mother was.

The man also admitted that he collected his wife's phone on the day she was leaving for her sister's place because of the strange calls she used to receive while she would not pick his own call if he called her.

"I had earlier pointed this to her and she promised not to use the phone again. When she was leaving on that Friday, I saw the phone with her and demanded to know why she was still using it against her promise. She dropped the phone with me and left. We did not fight over the issue," Alabi said.

Commenting on the rumour that he must have beaten his wife with charm because of her suspected waywardness, Alabi said that though he knew that his wife engaged in extra-marital affairs, he did not do her any harm.

Ajibola Olalekan, a brother to the deceased said his sister was not sick before her death but started growing weak after leaving home on Friday. "My sister's daughter, Tawa, told the family that her mother left home that day to go to a room she rented at Gbopa area of Ibadan. When our mother learnt of her condition, she called Ismaila about 16 times but he did not pick her calls.