

I was hired by my landlord's business associate to kill him, says tenant arrested for murder

Police parade 10 others in Niger

ADELOWO OLADIPO - MINNA

A 34-year-old suspected murderer, Maaruf Sarki has been nabbed by police operatives in Niger State for allegedly killing and burying his landlord, identified as one Tasiu Shittu, in a shallow grave in Kontagora Local Government Area of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the

state police command, ASP Mohammed Abubakar, stated this, on Wednesday, adding that Sarki also stole N1.7m from the deceased and an unregistered Honda car.

Abubakar said that the suspect fled to Sokoto State shortly after allegedly committing the crime, but was arrested by detectives from his criminal hideout.

Parading the suspect with 10 others, includ-

ing suspected kidnappers and armed robbers, ASP Abubakar said that Sarki killed and buried Shittu in a shallow grave inside a rented apartment in Kontagora.

He explained that the apartment was rented out to the suspect by the deceased, adding that the suspect led detectives to the shallow grave during police investigation, while the body of the victim had

since been exhumed for autopsy.

ASP Abubakar further disclosed that among the exhibits recovered from the suspect was the sum of N1.7 million in the suspect's bank account, said to have been stolen from the victim, as well as an unregistered **Honda Accord** car estimated at N1.5 million.

Speaking in an encounter with the **Nigerian**

Tribune, Sarki said that he was hired to kill his landlord by a business associate, for N2 million, adding that he administered local herbs to poison his victim.

He said: "I used local medicine to kill the man and buried him inside his own house."

In another development, the police spokesman said that the command arrested two cattle rustlers, identified as Saminu Adamu and Umaru Ali, with 16 rustled

cattle, in a different operation carried out by the police in Rijau Local Government Area of the state.

He added that one Bawa Hakumi (28) was also arrested for theft of one cow which was recovered as exhibit.

"All suspects in question have confessed to their involvement in the respective crimes committed and they will be arraigned in court of competent jurisdiction at the end of the investigation", he stated.

