

Newly married man arrested inside church over married lover's death

By Olalekan Olabulo

THE police in Rivers State have arrested a newly married man, one Tuamene, over the death of a married mother of three children who lodged with him in a hotel in Port Harcourt.

The suspect had on the day of his arrest given a false testimony of his escape from kidnappers on the day of the hotel incident to members of his church.

The body of the woman was found in the hotel after the suspect abandoned it and escaped.

Police investigations revealed that the woman, who was a married mother of three children, had reconnected with her former classmate, Tuamene, while he was planning his wedding on April 27, 2024.

The two, it was gathered, had met and struck up a relationship back in 2010 when they were studying at a college of education.

After graduating in 2012, they

lost contact, but they met again during the suspect's wedding where they reconnected and exchanged contacts before fixing a meeting for 14 May, 2024.

On the agreed date, the two met and proceeded to the hotel where the suspect booked a room. It was in the room that the woman passed away after the two had sex.

Sources at the Rivers State police command said: "Suspecting foul play, the hotel staff alerted the police who launched an investigation into the incident.

"Detectives traced the suspect and waited for him to attend a Sunday service at his church where he served as the youth president.

"During the service, Tuamene took to the pulpit and gave a dramatic testimony, claiming that he had escaped a kidnapping attempt on May 14 (the same day of the incident) and that his phone had been stolen. His theatrical performance and praises for God's deliverance were met with enthu-

siastic responses from the congregation.

"However, the police were not convinced by the suspect's story. As the service ended and the congregation congratulated him, the detectives approached and arrested him.

"Initially, he denied any involvement in the woman's death, but when the police obtained a search warrant and discovered the sky-blue outfit and bag he wore on the day of the incident, he confessed to being with the deceased.

"The suspect further claimed that the woman had begun sneezing and convulsing shortly after they had sex, and that he escaped from the scene when he could not save her.

"The Rivers State Commissioner of Police, CP Olatunji Disu, commended the officers of the command for their swift and professional handling of the case.

"Further investigations are ongoing to determine the exact cause of the woman's death."

