

# Girl, 23, allegedly poisoned to death as her wedding day approached

For 23-year-old Bukola Ishola, it was sunset at mid-day! At the age that many in her ilk were hooked to earning their living through commercial sex work and such other unseemly activities, she was working assiduously to-

## Dada Aladelokun

wards achieving greatness. She had headed for the School of Health, Ijebu-Ilese as soon as she graduated from the secondary school, and later worked at the Ticketing Section of the School of Aviation.

Being versatile, with a strong passion for business, she had always sought ways to lead a meaningful life. Through the influence of her bosom friend, Raimoh, she hit the ancient town of Osogbo to find ex-

pression for another talent she had discovered in herself, namely acting. She had gone to star in a movie being put together by a popular Yoruba actor. But at the point of realising her cherished dream, her

world crashed. She died suddenly penultimate Tuesday in mysterious circumstances.

Recalling Bukola's last moments at their 8, Adejobi Street, Agege, Lagos residence, heavy-hearted, Sola, Bukola's younger brother said, "On May 27, she came home to pick up some things and we both shared in the joy of her anticipated outing in the movie. I told her how I would feel to see people watch her in many homes.

"What we were later told was that she suddenly took ill and Raimoh told the producer of the film in which

they both had gone to star about her sickness. Only God knows what happened; rather than bring her to us, we suddenly learnt that she gave up at a hospital in Osogbo after foaming in the mouth and defaecating all over her body. It was the hospital that later confirmed to us that she died of poisoning."

Now, the family is suspecting a foul play on the part of Raimoh, who Sola revealed, had lived with his aunt for over four months. "What really baffles one is the fact that rather than coming to us to tell us how Bukola took ill, Raimoh left her in pangs in Osogbo and returned to Lagos. And getting to Lagos, rather than visiting us, she went underground. Up until now, we have not seen her. It was only her mother that came here to cook up all sorts of funny reasons to justify her disappearance," he said.

Neighbours that gathered to sympathise with Sola also shared in his suspicion over Raimoh's attitude, which they said, was unbecoming of a good friend. "Out of sympathy, Bukola sheltered her here for over four months, only to pay her back this way," they said.

Lamenting that the scar of his aunt's death might take time to heal up in the family, Sola further revealed, "She had told me of his plan to get engaged to her fiancé towards their wedding later in the year,



• Bukola Ishola

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Shortly after her return from Osogbo. We also have a brother in London, who had been perfecting plans to relocate her abroad because he had seen in her a serious-minded sister. Now, all those plans are gone!"

Efforts by the correspondent to reach her mother for comments were unsuccessful.

The shock of Bukola's death was all over Raimoh's parents when last week at their Akerele Street, Agege home. They denied the insinuation that Raimoh was in hiding. "My daughter and Bukola were like twins. We have always taken Bukola as our own daughter. She

would have even gone there to commiserate with the bereaved family, but for the misinterpretations of the matter," said Mr. Ibrahim Tajudeen, Raimoh's father.

On why Raimoh went home rather than going to her friend's parents to initiate them with her condition, Tajudeen said, "When Raimoh came from Osogbo that day, it was our neighbours that informed me. She collapsed at a junction near our house because her health had deteriorated. With the help of people around, I took her to a private hospital, where she spent three days. Even before her return from

Osogbo on our request, she was admitted at the same hospital with her friend and we used to speak with them on a regular basis. It was when we felt that her situation was growing dangerous that we asked that she returned home so that we could take better care of her."

Dejected Raimoh spoke on the matter, "My heart is still very heavy over Bukola's death. Since I learned about her death on my return from the hospital, I have been on the traditional 41-day mourning which I am observing because she was a very cordial friend. I will never for-

get her."

She corroborated her father's explanation, adding, "Back here in Lagos, I did not know how I found myself in the hospital. However, I called her (Bukola) twice from the hospital, asking her about her situation and she told me that she was getting better. I even insisted just as I did before leaving her that she should come down to Lagos for better care. I was shocked to later hear that she had passed away. I never knew that I could lose my good friend just like that."

Giving insight to Bukola's ailment, Raimoh said, "All I know is that she was fond

of taking untreated water when we got to Osogbo and I warned her against it. I even advised her to be drinking sachet water, which I believe, is cleaner than the ordinary water whose source no one knows."

As things are, the family seems not ready to give the police any job to do on the matter, as they have resigned to fate with the immediate burial of Bukola according to Muslim rites. What a strange way to end a cherished dream!



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