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Guard, three others kill mother of four

By Ibanga Isine, Port Harcourt

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A 27-year-old private guard, Mr. Zachariah Dauda, has been arrested by the police for colluding with three other persons to kill a middle-aged mother of four, Mrs. Esther Ebomode, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Dauda told newsmen at the premises of the Rivers State Police command that the deceased hired him barely a week ago as a security guard.

According to him, the woman lived at Number 1 Okunsanya Close along the Old Aba Road.

An indigene of Yarbiun village in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State, the self-confessed murderer said two days after he was employed, his friends told him he was lucky to be employed by a rich woman.

He confessed, "Two days after I was employed as gateman some of my colleagues, who also work in the neighbourhood, came to tell me that I was lucky because my madam is a very rich woman.

"They said she had just arrived from America and that in their place when a woman has such money, they would team up and kill the woman or steal her money. I was informed by one Calabar boy.

"On that day (last Saturday), they came and drank gari in my place and we arranged. I went to the house and met the woman trying to prepare pap."

"I offered to help but she declined, telling me that she had almost completed the work. I went back and informed my colleagues, (three of them), they warned me to be careful that I should execute the job without attracting attention.

"I later went and out picked a rod and hit her on her neck as she was in the kitchen, backing me. We later took all her dollars (\$7,900) and I gave some thousands of the United States dollars to my colleagues.

"I took many of her belongings, including bags, suitcases; electronics into her jeep and drove off before the police arrested me."

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Balla Hassan said Dauda was arrested by policemen at a checkpoint on the Imo River Bridge head as he was about fleeing the city.

He said, "But this morning, my men were on patrol at Imo River (Bridge), when the young man came to pass in a jeep.

"He was flagged down and under interrogation he offered to give them N40,000 as bribe.

"The policemen became suspicious and on searching the vehicle, they recovered a heap of US dollars totalling about \$7,000."

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