

Policemen arrested, quizzed for allegedly killing bricklayer

THE Ogun State Police Command is investigating the alleged role of four policemen in the killing of a 40-year-old bricklayer, Saliu Dada, in the Sango area of the state.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the policemen were attached to the Quick Response Squad.

Our correspondent gathered that on Saturday, May 16, Dada – who was married with children – and some of his colleagues had gone to work on a building in the Ijoko area of Sango.

It was learnt that the QRS officers, acting on a tip-off on the violent activities of some land grabbers, had stormed the area.

A source said an argument ensued at the construction site between the bricklayers and the policemen. The policemen allegedly shot Dada dead and fled the scene.

He said, "There was an information that some land grabbers were fomenting

trouble and the QRS moved into the Ijoko area on Saturday. What actually caused the argument is

still hazy, but the officers allegedly fled the scene when Dada was shot.

"Some eyewitnesses

reported the matter at the Sango Police Division. Dada's corpse was taken from the construction site the following

day and deposited in a mortuary."

A police source told *PUNCH Metro* that the policemen, however, insisted during interrogation that they did not kill anyone at the scene.

He said, "The problem with the area is that there have been frequent clashes among land grabbers. These land grabbers also set traps for one another.

"Any construction worker, who does not know which group to appease, may fall victim of attack. I think that was what happened on Saturday to Dada. The policemen are insisting that they did not fire any bullet in the area.

"It was even on the second day that they found Dada's corpse at the construction site."

Dada's relative, who did not want his name in print, said the police had yet to release Dada's corpse for burial which had become a

source of worry.

He said, "We were invited to the police headquarters in Elewera, Abeokuta, on Monday.

"The police assured us that investigations were ongoing on the matter.

"But we want to have Dada's

corpse so we can bury him.

"We were told that the policemen who were at the scene, were arrested and being questioned.

"We are not interested in pursuing any case. Let them give us the corpse of our son for burial."

The Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Muyiwa Adejobi, confirmed Dada's death. He added that the policemen did not kill anyone in the area.

He said, "The policemen did not kill anyone in the area. However, the Commissioner of Police has ordered a

thorough investigation into the matter, and this will show what went wrong.

"The case is with the Department of Criminal Investigation and it is too early to make a conclusion. Let us carry out a post-mortem on the corpse and ascertain what killed him."

'I don't rob, I steal vehicles parts'

Olaleye Aluko

THE police in Lagos have arrested a suspected thief, Daniel Ekwerekwu, for allegedly stealing and selling vehicles spare parts.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Ekwerekwu, who hails from Anambra State, was arrested in a residential estate in the Ifako Gbagada area on May 5, while allegedly committing the act.

Our correspondent gathered that he was rounded up by local security men in the estate before he was handed over to the Ifako Police Division.

It was learnt that Ekwerekwu was thereafter transferred to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, Ikeja, for further investigation.

The police said they recovered stolen vehicle spare parts, including brain boxes and pressing buttons, from the suspect's apartment.

Speaking with *PUNCH Metro*, 43-year-old Ekwerekwu, said it was after his business folded up that he took to stealing.

He said, "I came to Lagos in 1992. My business was booming until I met one George who I lent N2.2m, but he failed to return the money.

"He ran away. I never saw him. I later went into selling second-hand clothes. That business also crashed in 2014. It was when I went for a friend's event in the Ejigbo area of Lagos that I met Segun.

"Segun said he would help me out of my misery. When I visited him at his shop in Oshodi, I realised that he was a spare parts dealer. I did not know they were stolen.

"He sold two brain boxes to me for N40,000, and I resold them for N70,000.

"He kept on selling to me, and I was reselling and making profit. Later, he told

me how he was doing it and asked me to join.

"I usually went into estates and target stationary vehicles; I don't rob.

"I used to make my move in the afternoon when there were a few persons in the vicinity.

"Most times, I would steal brain boxes."

The Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Kenneth Nwosu, confirmed the arrest.

He said, "The suspect drives a Hummer, and poses as a wealthy man to deceive unsuspecting persons in the area."



• Ijoko area

Photo: Olaleye Aluko