

CRUEL! Man, 23, killed over N300,000 contract sum



FROM PAUL OSUYI, ASABA

The good intention of a 23-year-old sculptor, Kingsley Asaba has turned out to be his own undoing. He was allegedly poisoned by a friend he invited to join him in executing a contract of N300,000.

The incident occurred at a newly constructed building in Umunede, Ika North-East local government area of Delta State.

As a sculptor, the deceased had won the contract to carry out decorative designs at the newly constructed building by the owner simply identified as Madam Joy. An advanced payment of N200,000 was given to Kingsley to mobilise him to site.

But trouble started when the deceased invited his best friend, one Nnaemeka, said to be jobless to assist him in executing the contract so that he could earn some money for his marriage that was fast approaching.

Saturday Sun gathered that marriage plans between Nnaemeka and his heartthrob, one Nkechi had reached advanced stages but lack of money had prevented the lovebirds from fixing a date for the payment of the traditional bride price.

On the first day of executing the contract, Nnaemeka was said to have invited Nkechi to join him at the project site. It was gathered that like Eve, Nkechi allegedly sowed the evil seed to eliminate Kingsley into the heart of Nnaemeka so that they (lovebirds) could have all of the N200,000 which was still with the deceased at the time to themselves.

A cousin of the deceased sculptor who simply gave his name as Jerry told *Saturday Sun* that after working for some hours, the lovebirds allegedly convinced Kingsley to have a drink with them at a nearby beer

parlour.

"We learnt that on that fateful day, Nnaemeka asked Kingsley to join him and his woman friend who came to visit them at the site for a drink at a nearby beer parlour," Jerry narrated.

But instead of having the drinks at the place of purchase, Nnaemeka and Nkechi further allegedly persuaded the late Kingsley to take them to the site to take their drinks ostensibly to hide their evil plans from the prying eyes of the public.

"According to the woman who operates the beer parlour," Jerry continued, "the lovebirds persuaded Kingsley not to have their drink at the beer parlour but to take it to the site."

"The owner of the building informed us that when several calls she made to Kingsley went unanswered, she decided to visit the site. But that close to the site, she met Nnaemeka and Nkechi leaving in a hurry, and on her inquiry, they told him that Kingsley was at the site but drunk."

Apparently not satisfied with what she heard, Madam Joy was said to have insisted that the lovebirds should take her to where Kingsley was.

She was however shocked when she saw the deceased lying dead on the ground in his own vomit. Doubting that Kingsley could not have died from drinking just one bottle of Legend Extra Stout, Madam Joy raised the alarm which led to the arrest of the lovers.

The suspects who were arrested by policemen from the Umunede Division of the Delta State Police Command were later transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Asaba.

A police source at Umunede disclosed that the suspects had already confessed to poisoning the drink bought by the deceased. The source added that the suspects had also confessed that they ensured that the deceased drank the full content of the bottle, and watched him as he battled with death in his vomit.

According to the source, the suspects thereafter emptied the contents of the late Kingsley's pockets and switched off his mobile phone before attempting to abscond.

Public Relations Officer of the Delta State Police Command ASP Lucky Uyabeme confirmed the incident in Asaba and said that the two suspects were under-going further interrogation at the SCID.