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Ogun police nab driver who allegedly strangled bizman over N1.6m goods

From **SEGUN OLATUNJI**, Abeokuta

WHEN 45-year-old plank seller, Yemi Kehinde, boarded a truck conveying his goods worth N1.6million from Owa-Oni in Ondo State, heading to Abeokuta, Ogun State, on August 20, little did he know that he was embarking on a journey of no-return.

Kehinde, vice-chairman, Planks Sellers Association (PSA), Alafia Unit, Lafenwa, Abeokuta, had travelled to Owa-Oni to buy planks, having employed the services of the driver of an haulage company, to convey him and his consignment back to Abeokuta.

The haulage company (name withheld), is said to be located in Ibafo, in Obafemi-Owode Local Government

Area of Ogun State. In the course of the journey back to Abeokuta, Kehinde's fellow plank sellers who had been monitoring his movements suddenly lost telephone contact with him when the truck got somewhere around Owena town of Ondo State.

This development disturbed Kehinde's colleagues. All the frantic efforts subsequently made to re-establish contacts with him proved abortive. A search party was raised by his troubled colleagues to comb the route between his take-off point at Owa-Oni and Owena, but days after, both Kehinde and the driver of the vehicle could not be found. The matter was then reported to the police.

The strange discovery of the truck

used for conveying the planks safely parked in the premises of the haulage company in Ibafo without the goods, while the whereabouts of the owner of the consignment remained unknown, further heightened the curiosity and fuelled the fears of the plank sellers about the safety of the missing businessman.

It was also discovered in the course of investigation that the run-away truck driver changed his phone number and when he was contacted on his new line, he quickly switched it off. The management of the haulage company was, however, said to have traced the guarantor of the driver to Kogi State as part of the efforts to apprehend the fleeing driver who was the prime suspect.



• The suspect

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