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Gambling results in death and accused ends behind bars

By Chioma Okezie-Okeh

Saturday, September 8, 2007

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They saw it as a way of making fast money, but along the line fight ensued and someone was stabbed to death. Udoka Sunday may forever live to advise young ones on the need to stay away from gambling. Udoka allegedly stabbed his friend, Delpine, to death when they could no longer agree to the terms of the game. He was arrested and has been detained at the Lagos State Criminal Investigative Department, Panti.

Just wanted to 'mark' him

According to Udoka, 20, his initial plan was to give Delpine a scar to teach him to abide by the rules of a game but he mistakenly stabbed him on the chest. Udoka who hails from Ikwo in Ebonyi State disclosed to **Saturday Sun** that he had left home since 2003 in search of greener pasture.

After trying his hands on so many things including hawking of pure water he was introduced by a friend to foodstuff sales at Takwa Bay. It was in course of doing his business that he stumbled on Delphine who had been his friend till date of incident.

Normally, after the day's work they would gather at the gamblers spot at the seaside to while away time and make some money. That very day, he was to play against Delpine and they agreed that the winner would be given N100 by his opponent.

" I won him and he refused to pay. The next round he won and I refused to pay. He insisted that I cheated during the first round while he won during the second round, therefore I

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should pay him. My refusal to pay led to a fight. He started hitting me with a stick, I was very angry, I had to pick a knife from a nearby restaurant and went for him," he narrated.

Shocked at the extent of wound, Udoka said he rushed Delpine to the hospital where he died the next day.

"I was arrested by policemen from the Bar Beach police station who referred the case to Panti. He was my best friend and people had to nickname him my "girlfriend" as we were always seen together. I know I can never bring him back but I pray he would forgive me and remember that he is the best friend I ever had in Lagos," he sobbed.

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