

① Revenue collector kills teenage kinsman to avoid paying N100, 000 loan

Juliana Francis

A community revenue collector, Ifeanyi Ezinwa Paul, 29, has told the police that he killed his 19-year-old kinsman, Victor Ebuka, in order to avoid paying the N100, 000 loan he borrowed from the boy.

Rather than pay his debt, Paul lured Ebuka into a bush in Umuleri in Anambra State and attempted to stab him to death. The teenager engaged Paul in a scuffle, but he was overpowered and strangled to death by Paul.

During the scuffle, the knife nicked Paul, causing him to bleed. Seeing the wound, Paul came up with a devious plan. He ran straight to the king's palace, claiming that robbers attacked him. However, when he was finally arrested for murder, the suspect blamed his action on greed and devil.

Paul, who is married with three children, dropped out of secondary school after his father died. He learnt driving and soon became a commercial bus driver. He said: "Two years ago, my kinsmen invited me to come and work for the community. My duty was to serve as a revenue collector for the elderly men in the community.

"We have market days, and everyone was expected to drop a certain amount of

money. It was going well, but I became greedy and spent part of the money I had collected on behalf of the community.

"I knew I would lose my job if anyone noticed the shortage. It was out of desperation that I approached Ebuka, who owns a provision store in our village. He was my relative and we are from the same kindred in Umuleri."

Paul explained that sometimes in December 2020, he borrowed N100, 000 from Ebuka, with a promise to refund by January. He said that when it was January 10, which was the deadline, he couldn't

meet up.

Following the threats by the deceased to report him to the king, he hashed on the plan to exterminate him. According to him, he lured him to one of the bushes in the technical school at Aguleri area.

In the process of trying to kill him that scuffle occurred which resulted in Paul be injured but he finally overcome his victim and strangled him to death. Thereafter, he went to the palace to report to the king that he was attacked by robbers and was taken to the hospital for treatment.

However, the corpse of his

victim was discovered the next day, leading to his arrest by the police. "I maintained that we were attacked, and that I narrowly escaped. When my wife and family members visited, I insisted that I was innocent," he said when he was interrogated.

"After I was moved to IRT, I had no choice than to confess. I cannot explain the devil that entered my head. I don't know what to tell family and kindred. They should all forgive me. What happened was the handiwork of the devil," he added.

Police investigators con-

firmed the confession of Paul on how he attacked and killed Ebuka.

After his arrest, Ebuka's father was also said to have written a petition to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), demanding thorough investigation. The IGP in-

structed IRT, headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Abba Kyari, to investigate the matter. It was gathered that after operatives pointed out the discrepancies in his narrative to him, Paul carved in and confessed to the crime.

Pirates kidnap 40 crew in Q1 2021

Bayo Akomolafe

Despite a drop in the number of reported piracy incidents for Q1 2021, 40 crew have been kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said that violence against crew was on the rise in the Gulf of Guinea.

In its quarterly report on maritime piracy, IMB noted that since the start of 2021, 40 crew have been kidnapped compared to 22 crew a year ago and one crew member was also killed in Q1 2021.

However, it noted that there was an overall decline in incidents in the first quarter of 2021.

The bureau stated that while the number of reported piracy attacks against commercial shipping declined in 2021, violence against crew was on the rise with the Gulf of Guinea remaining the

world's piracy hotspot in 2021.

According to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)'s Secretary General, John W.H. Denton: "Governments, businesses, and maritime response agencies must take appropriate measures to protect the lives and livelihoods of crew, so that we can ensure the uninterrupted free flow of goods throughout international supply chains."

During the first three months of 2021, the bureau report explained that a total of 38 incidents compared with 47 a year ago.

It said: "The major of incidents however remains boarding with 33 reported in 2021 and two more attempted."

Two vessels also reported being fired upon and one was hijacked. The number of piracy assaults was nearly evenly split between 20 on vessels that were underway and 16 that were at anchor. Berthed vessels are far less likely to be targeted."

Ondo College of Education bans students from driving cars, riding bikes

Adewale Momoh
AKURE

The management of Adeyemi College of Education in Ondo town, Ondo State, has banned students of the institution from driving cars and riding power bikes on the school premises.

The management of the institution through a circular issued on Thursday said the move became expedient due to the recklessness of some of the students when driving on campus.

The circularly partly stated that the management considered the ban necessary in order to safeguard the lives of students and staff from students who drive with "reckless abandon".

Signed by the registrar of the institution, O. O. Fakorede, the circular further noted that management had on many occasions received complaints from both students and staff of the institution over the menace, hence the ban.

The circular partly read: "Ban on use of cars and power bikes by students.

The College management has observed that students who own cars and power bikes drive their cars and ride their power bikes on campus with reckless abandon.

"Management has equally received complaints from both students and staff on this act of indiscipline.

"As a consequence of this, and in order to safeguard the lives of students and staff, management hereby bans students from bringing their cars or power bikes into the College premises.

"The ban is effective immediately."