Mortuary worker steals telephone, gold necklace from deceased woman

DAMILARE FAMUYIWA 11/04/2019

The phone, according to Salami, was sold for N13,500.

The suspect confessed to committing the crime in a private mortuary in the Ajah area of Lagos. (image used for illustrative purpose) [Telegraph]
arrested for allegedly stealing a mobile phone and gold necklace from a deceased woman.

*The Nation* reports that men of the Inspector General of Police Intelligence Response Team (IRT), apprehended Salami and took him into custody.

The suspect was said to have stolen the items when the body of the woman was given to him to dress and embalm at the funeral parlour of the unnamed morgue.

It was said that Salami stole the phone and sold it to one of his friends at N10,000 while his friend in turn sold it to one woman for N13,000. Although Salami denied seeing any gold necklace, the two buyers were arrested and later granted bail.

In his confession, Salami said, "I am married with two children. I am from Odeda village, Odeda Local Government Area, Ogun state. I am a mortuary worker. I was formerly working in a General Hospital in Lagos Island as body embalment officer on a monthly salary of N20,000 in 2015.

“When they wanted to sell the morgue to a private company we were about to be retrenched. I was being paid N30,000 as casual worker. Those that were not staff were transferred to Epe, Isolo and Badgry areas but I chose to go to Ajah to work in a private mortuary there."
That fateful day, they brought a corpse to me to dress and embalm. When I removed her clothes to work on her I saw phone on her lap and stole it.

Continuing, the suspect who later spoke through an interpreter said: “I did not see any gold necklace. It was only the phone that I saw. After collecting the phone I gave it to one Abu.

“Initially, I dashed him the phone but later he came on his own and gave me N9,000 and two days later he gave me an additional N1000 thereby bringing the total money he gave me for the phone to N10,000 cash but the market value or price of the phone should be around N40,000.

“I did not even spend the N10,000. I kept it in my cupboard in the office. Abu later sold the phone N13,500 to one woman who was later arrested. I have my own phone. I use small Nokia which I bought at N3,500. I am a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God”

Concerning the whereabouts of the phone's SIM card, Salami who hails from Odeda area of Ogun, said the woman who bought the phone from Abu said the screen broke, and he didn't remove the SIM card before giving Abu the phone.

Source: Pulse Nigeria

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