

Christmas was around the corner ,everyone was agitated on what not to and what to do.my sister and I were busy doing count down while our parents were worried about the expenses. Little us were happy about the big stock of chicken and beautiful dress we were going to put on.

My name is Bella,I love Christmas but not the school break that came with it, breaks are avenues for mummy to get free labor at her buka. When my sister and I complained about it,she we says have we paid her for giving birth to us or do you girls think that the food and cloth that are been given to you are manners that came down from heaven and conclude that holidays are my pay back time for all what I had spent during school sessions.

Tella is my sister who is two years older than me and my best friend. We normally saved some parts of our pocket and gift money in our saving box so has to have back up money when the need arises.

I had turned fifteen the previous August and am in class three in senior high. Next year I will be done with my secondary education that means no more pocket money for me it we be assumed that am now a big girl and before I will get admission into tertiary institution it we take up to a year before leaving home. I can't be going to mummy's buka like that not doing anything.I know my future predicament borders me and am yet to find a solution on how not to be idle for one year.

On the other hand going to mummy's buka is so tiring working and getting nothing in return is so heartbreaking. Mummy came home late which was unusual for her and was lamenting that some people are so lazy that they we be expecting her to be working and giving them money doing nothing. She was referring to the lady that supplied her cold water and drinks.mummy needed someone who will be supplying her cold water and drinks in her buka. The area her buka is located has a very low power supply. I on the other hand began to do the calculations we have a spare fridge that is not been used at the moment in my house and i also have some savings which can be used as my capital.

I told mummy that she should search no further that I can do it,at first she looked at me and said you that is always complaining that you are tired are you sure you can do it and I replied yes I can, providing you we be paying me my money complete and credit is not allowed because I know my mummy likes credit. She said okay and promised to pay immediately she collect any product.

Tella lend me her savings,I added it up with mine and it was still not enough. Mummy made an up front payment to enable me get what I needed for the business.setting up the business was very stressful,the first few days I could not have me time for myself it was either am in mummy's buka attending to customers or at home arranging my product in the fridge or coolers.I was practically a shadow of myself now I know why mummy always had mood swings,I just need to convinced and believed that my business can't get any worst than this.

At first the profit was still not coming as expected,in fact business in general was slow because of the celebration that was fast approaching people were trying to cut down some expenses in order to make amends on future expenses. Mummy said it was usually like that this period, I should not worry that after Christmas there we be shortage of supplies and labor, most people would have

traveled for the festive period,that is the time I will keyed into. for now I should relax and reserved my energy for the period she called bumper to bumper season.

The long anticipated Christmas finally came and everyone who had bills to pay took a deep breath of the burden been removed. It is true what they say about Igbo people like money so much. You need to see me I was glowing for just thinking about the money I we make in advanced. Anyway the celebration was fun and lively i got to meet my uncles,aunties and cousins had not seen for a while which made the holiday memorable.

I beg mummy to resume sales at her buka two days after Christmas but she insisted on resuming three days after in order to bond with family members and friends. Most restaurants and buka were not opened it was has mummy said. Sales was massive for me and mummy,customers were flopping in and out of mummy's buka. I now have new customers that I supply cold drinks and water apart from mummy. Thank goodness I had patience to endured the hardship at first, if not I will not be here now i believed am a step closer to my financial freedom.