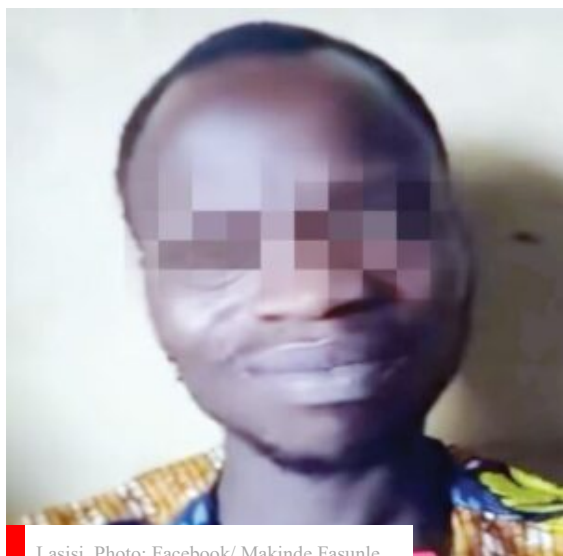


Ogun man kills stepbrother over N4,000 debt

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Lasisi. Photo: Facebook/ Makinde Fasunle

| By Johnson Idowu

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A man, Lekan Lasisi, has been arrested by the Ogun State Police Command after a dispute between him and his stepbrother over a N4,000 debt led to the latter's death in the Abule Tuntun area of the Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Monday that the incident happened on December 19 after Lasisi engaged his brother in an argument over the deceased's repeated act of owing debts.

Lasisi explained that he was angered by the persistent demands from his stepbrother's creditors, who allegedly asked him to pay the deceased's debts.

The argument was said to have degenerated when the deceased allegedly brought out a cutlass to attack the suspect.

In retaliation, the suspect claimed he brought out a gun but did not know when it accidentally discharged and hit his stepbrother, leading to the latter's death.

Narrating what transpired between him and his deceased brother in an interrogation video shared by a Facebook user, Makinde Fasunle, on Monday, Lasisi explained that on the day of the incident, the victim had gone to the market with goods, and while he walked to the bus stop, one of the brother's creditors approached him to report that the deceased had failed to pay his debt.

He noted that when his brother returned from the market, he approached him to discuss his recurring debts and how his actions were causing embarrassment to the family.

He continued, "When he took a cutlass, I brought out my gun. I am a hunter. He is fond of drinking and exhibiting different attitudes that can cause trouble.

"On the day of the incident, he took garri to the market, and we met at the expressway where we often board a vehicle. I met a woman who claimed that my brother owed her again. The money was N4,000.

"When my brother came back, I challenged him on why he would be owing debt and causing us shame. He got angry and started making trouble. He was the one who first brought out a cutlass, and I brought out a gun, but it accidentally discharged and hit him. I do not intend to kill him."

While admitting to having shot the gun, Lasisi insisted that the shot was not intentional, as he had no plans of killing his brother.

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He appealed to the government to temper justice with mercy, stressing that their mother was aged and the third child, who could have cared for her, was bedridden with sickness.

"I do not intend to kill him because I can't even say how it happened. When the gunshot hit him, I rushed to him to lift him because I was worried that I had killed my own brother.

"My appeal to the government is that they should have mercy upon me. "My mother is sick, and the person who could take care of her is on a sickbed," Lasisi said.

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When contacted for a reaction, the Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, Babseyi Oluseyi, confirmed the incident.

He noted that the matter had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for investigation.

"It happened on December 19, and it was transferred to SCID, Eleweran," the PPRO said in response to our correspondent's enquiry.

This is not the first time a dispute over a meagre sum has resulted in a fatal clash.