

CASE-FILE

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By Femi Ogbonnikan, Reporter, Lagos

He was inflicted with machete cuts that later led to his death. His offence was urinating in a neighbour's compound.

Homicide detectives attached to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba, Lagos, have arrested the suspect behind the murder.

Trouble, it was gathered, started when the deceased, Peter Ene, who was pressed by nature's call, went to urinate in a compound located at No. 14B, Olayinka Street, Ajegunle, Apapa Lagos, on Saturday, February 25, 2007.

À tenant in the affected building, who saw the deceased urinating in their compound, it was learnt, ran inside and reported the incident to one Jude Amamueze, who was cooking rice in the passage of the tenement building.

In a jiffy, Jude, who is a hawker of second-hand clothes popularly called *Okrika* in the local parlance at CMS bus stop, stormed out of the building to challenge Peter (the deceased) over why he was urinating inside their compound.

However, the encounter was said to have degenerated into hot argument during which they engaged in a fisticulf.

Peter, who was alleged to have suffered defeat in the fight, quickly wriggled out and picked up a broken bottle he found by the roadside.

As he drew closer and attempted to stab Jude, the latter bolted away, and dashed into his room and picked up a machete.

He inflicted several deep machete cuts on Peter's forehead subsequently,

Man Killed For Urinating In Neighbour's Compound

and Peter bled profusely until he rushed home to report the matter to his elder brother he was staying with, before he eventually died late that very day.

And in a bid to cover up the machete cuts inflicted on Peter, Daily Independent reliably gathered that Jude, a father of two, quickly went to Ajeromi Divisional Police Headquarters, Ajegurile, to report the matter.

From there, he was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated for an injury he sustained on his left hand.

But prior to Peter's death, it was further learnt that the deceased had relayed all that transpired between him and Jude.

He, however, narrated how he urinated in Jude's compound but only to be attacked with a machete.

Unaware of the evil lurking around for him, policemen attached to Ajeromi Division were allegedly drafted to pick up all tenants of the affected "face-me-I-face-you" building for questioning over the murder.

According to the suspect, Jude Amamueze (30), who is currently cooling his feet at the homicide section of the SCID, Panti, Yaba, Lagos, "the boy caused the whole problem. He came from nowhere to urinate inside our compound. It was unfair of him. And when I was called where I was cooking rice, I ran outside to challenge him, which eventually degenerated into hot argument. I never meant to fight him except to put him right. He despised me when I was talking to him and that was what really annoyed me. I was surprised when he engaged me in a fisticuff because I never imagined he would fight me. I dealt with him and when he sensed he could not handle me he then picked up a broken bottle by the roadside to stab me, which he eventually succeeded in doing.

"Truly, I went into my room to bring a machete, but I never thought I would inflict cuts on him, which eventually claimed his life. I had wanted to scare him with the machete, but when he showed his seriousness to stab me I then struck him with the cutlass.

"From there, he ran away and I did not know what transpired later until policemen came this morning to pick up all tenants of the building in which we live. But prior to that, I had quickly lodged complaints at Ajeromi Police Station, Ajegunle, where two policemen were detailed to take me to a nearby hospital for treatment of the bottle stab on my left hand.

"And that was all I knew about it until policemen came to pick all of us and took us to Ajeromi Division. And from there, I claimed responsibility for the attack on Peter. It was there also that I learnt that Peter had died as a result of the machete cut I inflicted on him.

"Subsequently, I was transferred to the homicide section of the SCID, Panti, Yaba, Lagos, where I am now."

When contacted over the incident, Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, Superintendent of Police (SP), confirmed the report. He said the suspect had been transferred to the homicide section of the SCID, Panti, Yaba, for further investigation.

After investigations, the Lagos police spokesman said, the suspect would be arraigned before a law court to answer for his sins.



• Amamueze