

Ekiti Prince To Die By Hanging For Killing Monarch, Court Rules

By **Popoola Yaqoub**

On **May 5, 2022**

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An Ekiti State High Court has ruled that a 42-year-old Prince Omoniye Stephen Ademola who stabbed a monarch, Oba Gbadebo Ibitoye Olowoselu II, the Onise of Odo-Oro Ekiti to death would die by hanging.

The court found Ademola guilty 10 years after he committed the heinous crime in the Ikole Local Government Area of the state.

The convict was arraigned on one count charge of murder contrary to Section 316 and punishable under Section 319 of the Criminal Code, Cap C16, Laws of Ekiti State of Nigeria, 2012.

The charge reads, “Omoniye Ademola Stephen on the 20th day of August 2018 at Odo Oro Ekiti in Ikole Ekiti Judicial Division, murdered His Royal Majesty, Oba Gbadebo Ibitoye Olowoselu II, the Onise of Odo-Oro Ekiti in Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State.”

One of the Chiefs who testified before the court said, “we were at the palace on that day for Onise in Council meeting, around 7:00 a.m., before the commencement of the meeting Omoniye Ademola Stephen entered the palace and sat on Kabiyesi’s seat but the Chiefs frowned at his action and drove him away.

After the meeting, late Onise in the company of his male clerk was trekking back to the main palace, Ademola came out of his hiding and attacked Kabiyesi with a knife on the road and stabbed him to death, before that day he has been parading himself as the king of the town, he concluded.

The state counsel, Adegboyega Morakinyo called five witnesses and tendered a medical report, statements of the convict, knife and rope among others as exhibits while the convict spoke in his own defence through his counsel Tope Amr Salami and called no witnesses.

Justice Olukayode Ogundana dispelled the notion that the defendant is insane, consequently, the defendant, Omoniyi Ademola Stephen is hereby sentenced to death and shall be hanged until he breathes his last. May the good Lord have mercy upon his soul.

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