

Man kills friend over burial ceremony food

Sixty-four-year-old Charles Nmam, a native of Ndi Ogbugbor, Udo village in Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State is probably regretting allowing his late friend, Alphonsus Ngele to accompany him to a burial ceremony he attended with other members of his group.

For what now seems like a bad decision, Nmam might live the rest of his life in prison, or probably be hanged, if convicted by a court for the death of Ngele, whose show of 'long-throat' and unreasonable anger apparently set the stage for his untimely demise. Nmam allegedly stabbed Ngele in the course of a scuffle between them after they returned from the burial ceremony.

As Nmam told *Sunday Sun* at the headquarters of the Ebonyi State Police Command, the unfortunate chain of events that led to his friend's death started when Ngele accompanied him and members of his group to the burial ceremony.

Nmam said: "The deceased was my good friend. He accompanied me to a burial ceremony. When we got there, he was not given part of the food served to us

because he was not a member of our group. We have a law in our group that anybody who did not pay the N100 burial levy we charge each member would not be served food at the burial ceremony. Ngele got angry. I tried to explain to him why I could not give him my share of the food served to us. He simply refused to accept my explanation."

All through the burial ceremony, Ngele was unhappy that he was not given any food and he quietly nursed his anger and displeasure. When they got back home, Nmam claimed that Ngele vented his bottled anger.

His words: "On our way home he quarreled with me over the food issue. I pleaded yet he was adamant. Later he came to my house around 7.00pm with a weapon and wanted to kill me. We started to fight. Then he raised the weapon to hit me, but I dodged it and then stabbed him with it. I didn't do it intentionally. I pray that the family of the deceased should forgive me over this mess."

Ebonyi State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Maigari Dikko in a chat with *Sunday Sun* revealed that it was the wife of the suspect who first



•Deceased

saw Ngele lying in a pool of blood after Nmam stabbed him. Immediately the matter was to the police at Ivo Police Division. The victim was rushed to the Cottage Hospital in Uturu where the doctor confirmed him dead.

Meanwhile the police are still investigating the circumstances that led to the death. The State Commissioner of Police, Maigari Dikko gave an assurance that the suspect would be arraigned in court in due course.



•The suspect



•Dikko, Ebonyi State CP