

# Graduate stabbed to death days to assumption of office in bank

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IBADAN

**F**or daring to defend his family, a 28-year-old graduate, of Owode Estate, Apata, Ibadan, Oyo State, was cut off a bright future by a neighbour miscreant over an argument on a damaged pitcher.

Joseph Faminigba, a graduate of Business Administration from The Polytechnic, Ibadan, was allegedly stabbed to death by one Sunday with whom the family had, had a running battle, five days for him to report for duty at a bank in Ibadan, where he had been newly employed.

At issue was a pitcher used to draw water from a well belonging to Sunday, which he complained the family damaged. He had nursed a grudge against the family for having a penchant for destroying his valuables, including a vegetable garden he kept in his compound close to the Faminigbas' residence. He reportedly set out to retaliate by deflating the family's vehicles' tyres, which attracted the attention of the late Joseph and his junior brother.

The deceased was reportedly sleeping on the fateful Wednesday night of February 19, when he heard sound of leakage coming from the tyres



• Joseph Faminigba, the deceased

of the vehicles parked outside their compound.

On getting to the scene, he sighted and challenged the suspect, Sunday who he saw piercing the tyres with a sharp iron.

An argument ensued and the suspect brought out a knife, which he used to stab Joseph on the left side of his stomach, leading to his death.

Tope, the deceased's younger brother, who witnessed the scene said: "We normally parked our vehicle outside our compound, but of recent we started noticing that by morning, the tyres are busted. So, on this fateful day, my brother and I had just returned from watching a football match and there was no light (power supply).

"I was eating outside when I

heard a hissing sound coming from our tyres. When I peeped, I saw Sunday piercing our tyres with a knife and I challenged him. Our main gate was locked, so I couldn't go out as the keys were with Ojo, who came out on hearing my voice.

"Before I got out, it was too late, as in a matter of seconds, my brother had been stabbed in his stomach. I just joined in to subdue Sunday and we raised the alarm together. That was how neighbours came and rushed him to the hospital."

Although Joseph was rushed from the scene by good Samaritans to the University Teaching Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, he was confirmed dead on arrival, due to excessive bleeding.

nuisance in the environs. SWM learnt that it took about 30 minutes before the neighbours in the area could subdue the suspect and seize the knife from him.

Although, the suspect, a 45-year-old bus conductor claimed he was mobbed by the crowd, no traces of attack was found on him when SWM visited him at the Criminal Investigation Department, Iyaganku, Ibadan, where he was being detained. He, however, told SWM that he only reacted in self-defence:

"They used to scatter my house and steal tomatoes from my vegetable garden. But that night, they cut and threw my 'doro' (pitcher for fetching water) into the well. So, I went to stab their tyres. I never intended to stab him, but the force of the attack was too much. I had to protect myself. They wanted to collect the knife to stab me, that was why I did not quickly release it."

Adedayo debunked his claim: "He was only apprehended by our neighbours, who were mostly women that night. When I returned with the police, his hands and legs were only bound with ropes. He only sustained injuries on his leg when we were trying to collect the knife."

He said of his late brother: "Everyone in our area knew him as an ambitious, hardworking and humble boy. My brother was a graduate of Business Administration from The Polytechnic, Ibadan. He had just gained employment with a bank, where he was to assume duty soon."

When contacted, a top officer at the State CID, Iyagangu, confirmed the incident and said the case would be charged to court soon.



• the suspect

According to the deceased's elder brother, Adedayo, a businessman, who reported the incident at the Apata Division of Police, Ibadan, Sunday had been a