

Top Stories

FROM NGOZI UWUJARE

Twenty-eight-year-old Augustine Chukwudi Nwefuru now seems set to have a date with the hangman or even spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted of the murder of 43-year-old Nwaorie Akochi, who he allegedly killed in Ezza Nt-ezi, Ishielu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State.

The Police of Commissioner in the state, Mr. Maigari Dikko, who told Sunday Sun about the discomfiting news of the atrocious and dastardly act committed by Nwefuru said that the suspect did it probably to avoid paying the debt of N430,000 he owed to the deceased, who he had hired to supply him with plastering sand for a building project.

As Dikko told the story, Akochi had gone to the home of Nwefuru to demand payment of the debt. Suddenly, Nwefuru and two of his accomplices allegedly set on upon the deceased and beat him to an inch of his life, such that



Dikko

he bled profusely from the nose. Then he carried the half-dead victim and dumped him in front of his house, from where he was rushed to hospital.

As the pummeling of the victim was going on, he called for help but nobody came to his rescue. Due to the beastly beating he received, Akochi suffered severe internal bleeding and three days later he died in the hospital.

Irked by the callous treatment meted

Man kills contractor he hired over unpaid debt

out to Akochi, his relations reported the matter at the Ishielu police station. The police moved and arrested Nwefuru while two of his accomplices escaped and are still at large.

Recalling what happened to his father in the fateful day, his son, Sunday, said: "My father returned home from the house of Nwefuru badly beaten. He was bleeding through the nose. After beating him, Nwefuru and his friends dumped my father in front of the house. He was almost unconscious. My father died after three days."

To add insult to injury, Sunday revealed that Nwefuru did a callous thing: "Augustine Nwefuru later brought the money to us but we refused to accept it. When we went to his house to tell him that my father was dying, Nwefuru the

only he did was to go out and buy Lu-cozade and some drugs around 5pm. Before he could return, my father died. After my father died, he came with members of his family and his uncle to attempt to settle the matter, but we refused and reported the case to Ishielu police station."

The wife of the deceased, Alice Akochi, who also spoke with our reporter said: "the only thing we want is justice for my late husband. He went to Nwefuru to demand for the payment of the debt owed to him. Instead he came back with severe injuries and died three days later in agony."

However, when he spoke with Sunday Sun at the headquarters of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, where he is

being held, Nwefuru brought a twist to the tale.

He said: "When the deceased came to our compound to demand certain debt, he stole our yams and goats. I warned him never to come to our compound again and sent him away. I didn't beat the deceased. I was only accused of killing the deceased when he died. I didn't kill him; rather it was me that went to Nt-ezi police station to report that the family accused me that I was responsible for the death of Akochi Nwaorie."

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in-charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Mrs Augustine Ogodu stated that the suspect would be charged to court soon.