

THIRTEEN years ago, Mr. Ogodobiri Ebifemene left his hometown of Bomadi, Bomadi Local Government Area of Delta State for Asaba, the state capital in search of greener pasture. With the assistance of his uncle, Mr. Kwalekeme Cletus, he secured a job in the state civil service, and was posted to the Ministry of Oil and Gas as a security guard.

Life began for him, as he started to raise a family. He got married to his heartthrob with whom he had four children, with the last child just about six months old. He had tall dreams for his kids, as he was said to have opened a bank account where he was saving money from his meagre salary for the educational pursuit of his children.

But his dreams have been cut short, following his death allegedly in the custody of officers of the state police command, who allegedly tortured him after his arrest as a suspect in a case of laptop theft at his place of work.

His neighbours, who were at the scene on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 when the police from 'A' Division came for his arrest, alleged that he was manhandled and brutalised by the officers in the presence of his wife, who was breaking palm kernel.

While the family is alleging that their son was hacked to death in police custody, the command insisted that the suspect died as a result of severe headache.

In a statement signed by the command's Public Relations Officer, Celestina Kalu, a deputy superintendent of police, noted that the suspect died on Friday, November 20, 2015 and that the corpse was deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba for post mortem analysis.

The release read in parts: "On 20/11/2015 at about 0400hrs, one Ebi Ogodobiri 'm' of behind Family Super Market Asaba, detained at 'A' Division Police Station Asaba, in connection with the offence of office breaking/stealing complained of severe headache. Consequently, he was brought out of the cell and rushed to the Police Hospital, Asaba for treatment and was later certified

• Late Ebifemene

dead."

Meanwhile, alleged plans by the police to carry out independent autopsy in the absence of a representative of the bereaved family were thwarted by the management of FMC who had issued out directives to morticians and mortuary attendants never to allow independent post mortem analysis.

Recalling the sequence of events that eventually led to the questionable death, the deceased's uncle and benefactor,

Mr. Kwalek activities of the again brought unprofessional conduct of the Force.

Mr. Kwale while his nephew cell, he was bound in chains going to vanish "When I appeared to unbind him, saying that I wanted to teach them a lesson. In a petition



• The bereaved wife and children