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AT seven, Ikechukwu Ndubueze obviously had many years ahead of him to achieve great things. But, cruel fate cut short the smart boy's dream as a vengeful neighbour of his parents allegedly pushed him into a septic tank and thus, to his death!

The former primary one student of Sharper Brain School was allegedly killed at his residence on 19, Aro Lane, Amukoko, Lagos State, on September 29, while he was defecating in the public toilet.

Ikechukwu's father, James, who is yet to come to terms with the demise of his first issue, told *Saturday Sun* he would have preferred he did not discover that his son died out of sheer cruelty of a neighbour. However, that realisation has haunted him ever since.

He said when he arrived home on that fateful day at about noon, he asked his wife, Angela of the whereabouts of the boy. "The mother told me that he went to defecate in the toilet," he recalled.

According to him, after waiting for some time, he decided to check on the boy, but he did not see him.

Meanwhile, he noticed Ikechukwu's trousers and pee bucket. Immediately, he raised the alarm and began to look for him. James was initially furious that the lad left without cleaning himself up. "When I arrived home by 12:30pm, my wife and his younger ones informed me that Ikechukwu went to the backyard. When I got there I threw away the faeces inside the pee bucket and continued to look for him. I searched everywhere and asked everybody but nobody said they saw him go outside," he added.

Unknown to him, Ikechukwu had allegedly been killed and thrown into the septic tank. While praying that the worst should not happen to his son, James headed for the police station where he was told he had to wait till after 24 hours before an official report of his missing boy could be made.

Last Tuesday, he was advised to search for his son in what he perceived to be the most ridiculous place. "That day my brother took me to one police officer, af-