

Court sentences cleric to death for killing friend for ritual

By Onozure Dania

LAGOS—A 34-year-old cleric, Fatai Afobaje, who murdered his best friend, and mutilated his body for money ritual was weekend, sentenced to death by a Lagos State High Court sitting at Tafawa Balewa Square, TBS.

Trial judge, Justice Modupe Nicol-Clay, sentenced Afobaje to death after finding him guilty and convicted him of the offence of conspiracy and murder.

He was found guilty on the two-count charge of conspiracy and murder.

The judge held that the prosecution had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt that the deceased died and that the death of the deceased was caused by the accused and that the act or omission of the accused caused the death of the deceased.

During the trial, the Lagos State prosecution, led by Adesola Adekunle-Bello and Titilayo Olanrewaju-Daud, called six witnesses and tendered 12 exhibits.

Afobaje was arraigned on a two-count charge of conspiracy and murder brought against him by the Lagos State government in charge No LD/4753C/17, in 2017.

Olanrewaju-Daud said the convict murdered one Rafiu Sulaiman and mutilated his body by cutting off his head, intestines, lungs, scrotum and hands.

She said the 44-year-old deceased from Kwara State, was killed by the alfa and his accomplices and that the deceased's body parts were shared among them for ritual purposes.

The prosecutor said the incident took place on February 13, 2015, at Itire village, Magbon, Badagry, Lagos.