

Valentine tragedy

Teenager stabs friend to death over loverboy

Stories by LUKKEY ABAWURU

ARGUABLY, not many ladies would love to share their loved ones with another woman, while others would resort to screaming and weeping, others could react instantly at the news of such by warning their opponent or even fighting her to ensure that her lover remains for her alone.

This was the case of a 19-year old Blessing Odeh who allegedly stabbed her bosom friend for purportedly attempting to snatch her boyfriend on the Valentine day (Lovers day).

Daily Champion learnt that tragedy struck at Ijora

Badia, Lagos near the railway crossing, where Blessing confronted her intimate friend, identified as Gift Onyia over having secret affairs with her lover.

Our correspondent gathered that Blessing suspected her friend and accused her of having secret love affairs with her unnamed boyfriend, an act, Gift denied on oath. Blessing was not however satisfied with her friend's denial as she threatened to pour acid on her if the allegations were true.

However, a witness at Badia said Blessing monitored her friend and on the lovers day, allegedly got information that her lover eloped with Gift to

an eatry joint at Ijora. She immediately confronted Gift who again denied eloping with her lover and in the process fight broke out between the friends.

Blessing whom neighbours and even Police described as a cantankerous person was said to have stabbed Onyia with broken bottles first, before Onyia hit back, apparently to defend herself.

The deceased (Blessing) also tore the clothes of her friend and vowed to disgrace her before public for purportedly attempting to snatch her boyfriend.

The witness who prayed for anonymity said "Onyia was a quiet person who



•Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo CP, Lagos

hardly finds trouble, she had on several occasions denied having anything to do with Blessing's boyfriend but her friend who was not quite like her would find one thing or another

to attack her, I pity Onyia, such a cool person would now languish in cell over Blessing's affairs."

At Badia Police Station, a senior police officer described the plight of Onyia as unfortunate.

He said "when they were brought to the station, Onyia was more wounded than Blessing but I was surprised that Blessing who sustained minor injuries died later in the hospital, it is unfortunate."

Speaking with *Daily Champion* the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Mr. Usong Ekpo said the boyfriend was not arrested nor invited since there was nothing to link him to the

matter.

The Chief Superintendent of Police noted that the case was not murder but a *afri* (ie two fighting). He said the deceased accused Onyia severally which she denied.

Confirming the incident, police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said the corpse of Blessing has been deposited in a public mortuary in the state. He noted that the girl was being detained at State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Panti, Yaba.

According to him, detectives from SCID have swung into the case to unravel the cause of action.

Police nab G.S.M thieves

FOUR-man armed gang that specialized in snatching handsets at Ikeja and environs have been nabbed by the police in Ikeja, Lagos.

The gang met its Waterloo when the ring leader identified as Wasiu Momodu was arrested by policemen on stop and search.

Trouble started when the police found Momodu with several handsets inside his bag. Momodu was interrogated but his explanation, according to a police source fell short of conviction.

Daily Champion learnt that Momodu was found with five expensive handsets with several sim cards inside them which the suspect could not identify.

One of the policemen who was among the stop and search team noted "We asked him the owners of the phone and he said they all belonged to him and his wife but when we asked him to identify the sim card inside i.e. whether it was Glo, Celtel or MTN etc, he could not and when we asked him of the numbers, he did not know.

The policeman who does not want his name in print said "upon interrogation, Momodu confessed he had other members of the gang and that he would

not die alone, he took us to their hide out at Christ Apostolic Church, Opeolu Wad, Agbado Ijaiye where we arrested his partners in crime viz Remi Ajah, Mukaila Jimodu and Monsura Olopade respectively."

However, at the anti robbery section of the State Police Command, a source said the suspects have confessed their roles in serial snatching of handsets in the metropolis.

Confirming the incident, police image maker, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said that arms and ammunition were recovered from the hoodlums.

According to him, one brown pistol, three locally made pistols, one chief revolver pistol, one packet of 9mm live ammunition and two cartridges were recovered from their hide out.

Similarly, a seven-man armed robbery gang which specialised in robbing passengers at gunpoint when the bus was in motion (one chance) have been arrested at Ojota, Lagos. They were arrested following a report from a victim of their operation last week. The victim and others were said to have been variously attacked by the gang.

Following the attack one of them reported the matter to the police and detectives were deployed to monitor their activities leading to their arrest.

A witness at Anti-robbery Squad, Ikeja said the suspects are undergoing interrogation as at the time of this report.

...As waiter kills customer

TRAGEDY, also struck at FESTAC Lagos in the week, as a waiter, identified as Hope, stabbed her ex-lover to death in a mysterious circumstance.

Daily Champion learnt that the deceased, a 34 year old Soji Oni went to Baker Square restaurant at 5th Avenue, FESTAC, Lagos for a plate of pepper soup when the incident occurred.

Oni was said to have requested for a plate of pepper soup which one of the waiters went into the shop to prepare for him.

Oni, said to be a

businessman also requested for an undisclosed brand of beer to cool off and was allegedly sipping the drink when tragedy struck.

He was said to be waiting for the pepper soup when Hope, said to be his ex-lover whom Oni had purportedly used and dumped came out of the restaurant.

On sighting Oni, a source told *Daily Champion*, that Hope went back and armed with an cutlass stabbed him on the chest. Oni reportedly died instantly, before he could be rushed to a nearby hospital.

Our source added that there was alleged animosity between the two ex-lover birds over undisclosed issues.

When *Daily Champion* visited the Baker Square restaurant, at 5th Avenue, FESTAC, the place was under lock and key but few people were seen around, apparently discussing the incident.

When *Daily Champion* sought to speak with the proprietress of the restaurant, a young man who declined to disclose his identity said "Madam no day"

A source at the hotel who described Hope as a good girl said "I don't know the devil that worked on her that fateful day, I cannot comprehend what could have pushed her to stab even her enemy."

The source noted "May be the man had broken her heart that made it impossible for her to endure, but in any case, she over reacted, if it was time that she did such, I pity for her"

At FESTAC Police Station, a senior police officer said the waiter has been arrested and transferred to State Criminal Investigations Department, SCID Panti, Yaba Lagos.

The Police said "Maybe Oni used and dumped her and picked up another lady in the same restaurant which may have not gone well with the lady, but I am not sure investigation would reveal cause of action" he noted.

Reacting to the incident, police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni who described the incident as unfortunate said the incident occurred at about 8pm.

According to him, Oni was allegedly waiting for a plate of goat pepper soup before Hope allegedly stabbed him to death with undisclosed instrument.

Ojajuni said Hope was an attendant in the restaurant but declined comment on the remote and immediate causes of the incident. "Investigation would reveal the cause of action, policemen are interrogating the lady to know why she stabbed him. At present, I cannot speak on the cause now."

In another development, three armed robbery suspects who specialized in diverting inter states buses into thick bush for robbery operation also met their Waterloo at Oshodi.

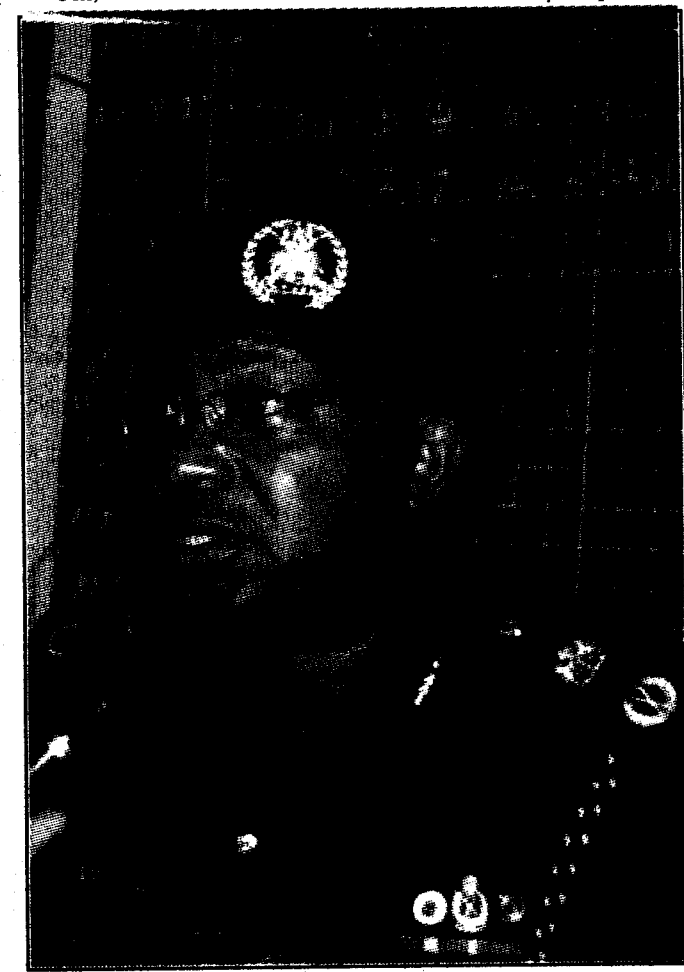
The gang led by one Matthew Onigbo were said to have confessed to the commissions of the crimes, noting that they had severally hijacked Abeokuta and Ibadan bound buses and robbed the occupants at gun points.

Daily Champion gathered that the gang was arrested by policemen on routine patrol along Oshodi/Abeokuta road.

A poplice source said "we sighted a commercial Volks Wagen Faragon Mini bus with reg. number XA 815GBA with some occupants who were apparently forced to bend their heads, we chased the vehicle to Shogunle junction where the hoodlums stopped and jumped out."

The police source who prayed for anonymity said "in the process one Henry Amony later confirmed that he and other passengers in the bus were been robbed by the hoodlums before asking us to bend our heads as if we were praying to beat police check points."

Confirming the incident, police spokesman said investigations have begun to unearth the gang's hide out and modes of operation.



•Mr. Isreal Ajao, AIG Zone two