

NEWS.

A joy cut short ...

Written by Bertram Nwannekanma

Category: Metro Hits: 7 • Print



• A few months to her wedding, 33-year-old lady was killed in a tragic motor accident

THE joy of every young woman is not just to secure employment after her education, but to also settle down one day with a man of her dream in marriage to raise a family.

So when Henry Ehisun came asking for Mariam Ehisun's hand in marriage, the family of the 33-year old, Ewossa-born lady in Esan West Local Council of Edo State was elated with joy that at last, their daughter's

dream was coming to reality.

After the initial introduction, the two families soon began preparation for the marriage.

With a wedding date already fixed, Mariam, who was staying with her cousin, Blessing Omojiade at Pakuro, a fast growing community in Obafemi -Owode Local Council of Ogun State, decided to pick up job in a rubber processing company at Kara Ibafo to assist her heartthrob, who is also living few compounds away from the Omojiades, meet the wedding expenses.

However, the dream of the two love birds was shattered on the morning of Thursday, July 31, when a vehicle swooped on Mariam and others waiting to board a commercial bus to work at the popular Pakuro bus stop, opposite Deeper Life Bible Camp, along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

According to an eyewitness, Babatunde Olajide, four people died on the spot as a result of the accident, while three others died on their way to the hospital.

The only survivor, 20-year-old Uye Omojiade was left with broken legs and has been rushed to a local bone-setting hospital in Esan.

Olajide, who attributed the accident to over-speeding and lack of designated bus stops along the busy Lagos -Ibadan expressway, said Mariam was waiting for a bus on her way to work that fateful day, alongside other passengers, when the driver of a Pathfinder Sports Utility Van (SUV) lost control of the vehicle and veered off the road hitting a commercial Danfo bus that was gauging its rear tyre from the back and crushing everything on its way.

He said: "At the bus stop that morning, a bus conductor of a Lagos yellow bus popularly called danfo was gauging his rear tyre. Mariam, Uye and other victims were all standing in front of the bus, apparently waiting for a bus, when suddenly a Pathfinder SUV veered off the expressway, ramming through the bus, which in turn swept off the passengers at the bus stop, including, Mariam."

"Four of them died immediately, three others died later on their way to the hospital, while Mariam's second cousin, Uye Omojiade was left with broken legs."

Another eyewitness, who sells merchandise close to the scene of the accident and identified simply as Iya Moruf, blamed the accident to a brake failure.

She also told The Guardian that when the SUV finally came to a halt, afraid of being lynched, the occupants of the vehicle escaped for fear of their lives, only for policemen from nearby Mowe Divisional Police Station to come to the scene few minutes later.

But a police source who confirmed the incident said the driver of the vehicle reported himself after the incident and he was taken into protective custody.

The police source, however, did not give details on the ground but only said investigation was going on.

Narrating the sad news to The Guardian at their Pakuro home, Blessing who was weeping profusely, described the incident as a double calamity for the family.

According to her, Mariam who was a very lively person, full of expectations, never had any premonition of the accident.

"We were all discussing about some family issues few days before the incident, but it did not occur to me that it was the last I would hear from her."

"We don't really know why this is happening to us because Uye is still not walking in the village, but we cannot blame God, he knows better."

"It is so bad that we are talking about Mariam in the past, because she was so healthy and full of life", she said amidst sobbing.

She, however, said the driver of the vehicle has gotten in touch with her family and there was nothing they could do to him since it was an accident that could have happened to anybody.

Meanwhile, Mariam's body that was earlier deposited at a Sagamu mortuary, will be buried today in her hometown, while a wake-keep was organized for her yesterday at Pakuro by her family and friends.

