

## CITYBEATS

## Orphan stabs lover to death over engagement ring

**A**N Akwa-Ibom State Transport Company (AKTC) worker, Mr Edet Ebong was last Tuesday stabbed to death by his fiancée, Miss Blessing Edet, over the latter's failure to wear the engagement ring.

But, Miss Edet, an orphan, said she stabbed Ebong in self-defence when he injured her for denying him sex.

The incident occurred at Falana Street, Ogumbo, Lekki, Lagos.

Miss Edet, 24, was arrested by the police at the Ogonbo Police Division in Ajah and later transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID, Pantti, Lagos.

The Nation learnt that the lovebirds, both indigenes of Akwa-Ibom have been dating each other for the past 18 months and were finalising their marriage plans when the incident occurred.

The late Edet, 33, on that fateful night, visited his lover at about 11pm and requested his fiancée to prepare him noodles to eat. It was in the process of dishing the food that the deceased noticed his fiancée was not wearing her engagement ring. He was said to have asked why she was not used to wearing her ring and she could not give a satisfactory reason.

That infuriated the deceased, who accused Miss Edet of being unfaithful. An

By Ebele Boniface

argument ensued and Miss Edet was said to have told the deceased that she was no more interested because the deceased was not financially capable. This resulted into a fight and Miss Edet allegedly stabbed Edet in the stomach.

Edet was rushed to the General Hospital but he died two days after.

Amid tears, Miss Edet said she never intended to kill her fiancée, saying; "sincerely it was not intentional, even while he was in the hospital and I was detained at the Ogumbo Police Division in Ajah, I was praying he survived it. I really did not know what came over him that day. We had good plans for the future."

She said the late Edet was not just a lover but also a brother.

She said: "We have been in a relationship for about 18 months. However, six months ago, he had trouble with his accommodation; so I asked him to move in with me since we were already engaged."

"We have never had a misunderstanding. But on that fateful day, August 18, I just returned from work and was resting when he came in drunk at about 11pm. He requested that I should prepare

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him indomie, which I did. After eating, he asked me of the engagement ring he had given to me. I told him it was on the table. While we lay down to sleep, he started making advances to me for sex; I told him I had a hectic day and was tired.

"He flared up and started to beat me. He broke the standing mirror in the room and injured my left eye with the broken glass. In defence, I quickly picked up the kitchen knife I used while preparing the indomie and mistakenly stabbed him in the stomach."

"After stabbing him, the fight continued. He went under the bed and brought out



•Miss Edet

a cutlass and said he was going to kill me. It was at this point that my younger brother, who had been trying to stop us rushed out to call neighbours. My landlord heard the shout and rushed into our room, met Edet bleeding while I was holding a knife, he alerted the police and Edet was rushed to the hospital. But unfortunately, he died two days after."

Miss Edet pleaded for mercy, saying: "I am an orphan who has struggled through life. I started living alone four

years back when my aunty I had been living with since I came to Lagos told me her husband did not want any family member to live with them. She helped me and my younger brother to secure a room apartment where we were managing.

"I also borrowed some money to set up a small provision business to keep us going before these tragedy struck. I do not want to end my life this way and my younger brother who is just 17, has no one to run to."