

# Protest as noodles seller 'kills driver over N30'

**T**HERE was tension at College Bus Stop, Igando, Lagos yesterday after a noodles seller, Mallam Adamu allegedly killed a bus driver, Lekan Adeleke, alias Starboy.

But for the intervention of policemen from Area M and the Rapid Response Squad, (RRS), the crisis would have snowballed into an ethnic crisis.

This is just as the deceased's family have appealed to the police that his body be released to them so that he can be buried in accordance with Islamic rites.

It was gathered that Adamu used a plank, which had nail to hit Adeleke on the head following a disagreement over N30.

According to a witness, Kehinde Akinduro, who said he was eating noodles at Adamu's snack bar when the trouble started. He said the suspect went berserk after the deceased paid his son N200 instead of N230.

He stated that Adeleke after eating noodles and eggs was told his bill was N230, being a regular customer, he handed over the N200 he had on him and told the seller he would bring N30 in few minutes time.

Akinduro said: "The boy then went and told his father that Adeleke paid N200 and promised to bring N30 shortly but his father ran after Adeleke. People who saw him running after Adeleke to the other side of the road, told him to calm down that he would not 'eat' his money.

"About five minutes later, Adeleke brought the N30 and asked the boy if it was because of N30 they wanted to embarrass him. He was not happy and told the boy that even if he didn't have money, that can't they give him food and he would pay when he had money?

"As Adeleke was inside the container talking to the son, Adamu just entered with a plank he was holding and hit him on his side. So, Adeleke turned around to know what happened and when he saw it was Adamu, he struggled to take the plank from him but he couldn't.

"I was still eating. I left my

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food and went inside to stop Adamu but he used the same plank to beat me three times. My hands and legs are still swollen. I fell on the ground and I was weak.

"After the struggle, Adeleke ran outside. As a peaceful man, he was going to cross the express when Adamu chased him again. He didn't know Adamu was coming behind him. That was how Adamu used the plank and hit him on his head. The nail on the plank burst Adeleke's head and he fell on the express.

"When I saw what had happened, I called our colleagues who were on the other side to come. People who were eating gathered and told Adamu to take Adeleke to the hospital, but he was busy pouring water on his head.

"But when he saw that our colleagues were coming, Adamu and his son fled. Others started chasing him. We called our chairman and he called the police. I chased him too and found him inside a gutter at Ikotun Road. He was hiding under a slab and refused to come out until police came. This thing started around 11:05am."

Another driver who gave his name as Eniola described Adamu as a violent man, noting that he chased a customer with a cutlass two months ago.

According to Eniola, Adamu's ear was chopped off some years back at Igando because he stabbed somebody to death.

"He fled to College Bus Stop. He's a violent man and he likes to threaten people with charms and weapons. We heard the police want to grant him bail. If he's bailed, we'll disagree. Lekan cannot die in vain. Let justice be done.

"Now, who would take care of Adeleke's widow, daughter and mother? He was the only son and he has been taking care of his family. Adeleke was a peaceful man. He was like an Alfa. He usually avoided trouble and so, we are not happy the way he was killed.

"Youths in the area burnt down Adamu's shop. We have destroyed the container and

burnt it. Even his charms, we have removed all the ones we saw. Imagine if it was a Yoruba person that killed an Hausa man? This area would still be boiling now and many people would have been killed. But we want to follow due process. Where we would get angry is if the police fail to do justice."

The Nation visited the deceased's mother's Ibrahim Taiwo home, where his distraught widow, Fatimah and the mother, Mrs. Aderonke Adeleke were being consoled.

Fatimah held the deceased's eight-year-old daughter, Rukiyat, who didn't understand what was going on.

Fatimah wondered who would take care of them, as she reeled out the many responsibilities her deceased's husband usually took off her shoulders.

She said: "I haven't seen my husband since Friday because I went to my mother's place. But we spoke on phone on Friday and he told me not to worry because he was working hard to save money for our daughter's school fees.

"Our daughter attends Mercy Land. It's a private school and they pay N25,000 per term. My late husband was a very peaceful man and caring too. He had no enemy. He was very playful. He took care of our family needs and worked hard to ensure we didn't go hungry. He also took care of his mother because he's an only son.

"I don't even know what to say. I came here from Isheri in the morning when my brother told me that something had happened to my husband. He said my friend called and told him, so that he can pass the message across to me. That was how I knew. I have not been myself since morning. I don't know what to say or do. I am just confused."

Police Commissioner Fatai Owoseni urged the aggrieved youths to eschew violence, noting that justice would be done.

He said: "At the time the information got to me, nobody was reported dead. But we had to deploy policemen to avoid violence or ethnic clash."

## Babcock Varsity inducts new doctors