

# Sex worker found dead in Onitsha brothel

**A** YOUNG lady, suspected to be a commercial sex worker, was yesterday found dead in a brothel on old market road in Onitsha, Anambra State.

The deceased, simply identified as Chisom, from Enugu State, was said to have died after washing the plates she ate with on Sunday night.

Controversy is however trailing the cause of her death. While some said she committed suicide, others said she might have been strangled by a customer, while some said she swallowed poison.

A neighbour, who pleaded for anonymity, said the deceased committed suicide on hearing that her lover-boy had dumped her for another woman.

She said: "She had a boyfriend who took care of her. Even this

From Emma Elekwa Onitsha last Christmas, the man took care of her travel needs, but as soon as she came back, she was told the man married someone else. Since then, she started behaving abnormally and just three days ago she was seen holding a rope on her hand.

"When asked why the rope, she became aggressive. Early in the morning, she swept her room and, about 9am, we heard she had committed suicide. We saw her neck tied with a rope to the window in her room, but the legs were touching the floor. So we don't know if it was suicide; her tongue pushed out from her mouth but there was no foamy substance."

When our correspondent visited the scene, sympathisers were trying to enter the hotel while some of the sex workers were moving out with their belongings

for fear of being arrested.

One of the sympathisers said the sex workers charged between N2,000 to N7,000 depending on their class. She queried why the hotel owners should allow them leave with their personal effects when the deceased's body was yet to be removed, insisting they have questions to answer.

Policemen from the Onitsha Area Police Area Command, close to the scene, visited the hotel about 12.30pm and left with some of the workers. They returned later with an ambulance to take the body away.

Police spokesperson Tochukwu Ikenga said investigation has begun.

"No note was found in the room to suspect suicide. We're exploring all options to unravel the circumstances surrounding the death," she added.