

# Man suspected of killing, raping sister in-law

**A** 29-year-old man has allegedly killed his sister-in-law while trying to rape her in a forest in Epe, Lagos. Ime Titus reportedly raped 19-year-old Blessing John twice even after her death.

Titus was said to have trailed Blessing to her father's farm where the incident occurred. Titus, who is being detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba, has confessed to the illicit act, blaming his action on his mad love for Blessing.

Narrating how he raped and killed Blessing, Titus said: "I just moved to Lagos from Akwa Ibom State to look for job when I met Blessing. She is my in-law as uncle is married to her elder sister. As soon as I set my eyes on her, I fell in love with her, but I kept it to myself until



• Titus

By Jude Isiguzo

I could not bear it any longer. I went to her to declare my love for her, but she turned me

down. I kept pestering her, but she refused blatantly that she did not love me; this got me angry," Titus said.

Despite Blessing's refusal to date him, he said he devised means to rape her.

"I did not intend to kill Blessing, but my feelings for her were very strong. So after monitoring her movement for some time, I discovered that she goes to the farm to uproot cassava in the evening with her father. That day, I trailed her from her house to the forest; she was alone and did not know I was following her. When she got into the dense forest and there was no one in sight, I ran ahead of her and grabbed her and started declaring my love for her, but she turned me down; I was very angry and I grabbed her

dress. She started struggling with me but I took a big stick and hit her on her head, she slumped immediately. I bent down over her and removed her skirt and had sex with her. All the while, she did not respond but I still had sex with her a second time but I did not know she was dead; I thought she was just unconscious," Titus said.

Upon discovering that Blessing was dead, Titus ran into the forest and hid there for four days. He came out of hiding when he became hungry and reported himself to his family who handed him over to the police.

Blessing's remains were discovered by her father. Her body has been deposited at a mortuary and the case transferred to the homicide section of the SCID for further investigations

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