
Vanguard (Lagos) »

Nigeria: I Didn't Mean to Kill My Childhood Friend, 17-Year-Old Girl Laments

By Esther Onyegbula

Life for Chiemeriem Benjamin, who had a dream of becoming a banker, has come to a temporary end after he killed his childhood friend, Lawrence Oloruntobi, during a minor disagreement.

The incident, which took place at Iba area of Lagos, has opened a scary new phase of life for the 17-year-old Chiemeriem. He told Vanguard: "Lawrence is my friend; we grew up together and have lived in the same area since we can remember.

"On that day, I was just not in the mood to talk with him. When I came out in the morning, he tried to talk to me but I ordinarily laughed about it. But I told him I was not interested in such.

"I went out later that day and on my way back, I saw him forcing my younger brother to play in a compound.

"My brother was crying out for help, because he did not want to be dragged into the water. I quickly went to help him. He took it personal and told me he would slap me.

"Out of anger, I told him that even his mother would not dare slap me. He then went in to get a cane. I told him I would slap him whenever we are having a misunderstanding.

"I also rushed into our room to grab a knife. But my elder brother and a neighbour, called Iya Ayin, saw me. According to the 17-year-old, Senior Secondary 1 student, "about two hours later, Lawrence came to see me. We started exchanging words, which later culminated in a fight.

"I went in and grabbed another knife just to threaten him.

"Unfortunately, while my elder brother, who intervened again, was trying to plead with Lawrence, I angrily stabbed Lawrence in the chest with the knife.

"It was only after my action that I realized what I had done. I started calling out for help because

"Few neighbours, who were around, responded and we quickly rushed him to a nearby hospital,

"Sincerely, I never meant to kill him with the knife. I only wanted to threaten him, but I just do not know what happened.

Vanguard learned that the case, which is currently being investigated by operatives in the homicide Investigation Department, SCID, would soon be charged to court.

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