

Kaduna state, for Lagos, in search of a better living condition, as that singular action seems to have jeopardized his dream of becoming a Petrochemical Engineer someday.

This is because he is presently in Police custody for allegedly stabbing one of his colleagues identified simply as Chibuzor, to death during an argument over payment of N2,500 that degenerated into a fight, Monday, at Owodele area of Mile 12, Lagos.

Wearing a look of gloom and despondency, Emmanuel kept shaking his head in self pity. Tears flowed freely down his cheeks.

Information at Crime Guard's disposal revealed that he gained admission to study Biochemistry at the College of Education, Gidanwa, Kaduna state, last year. But, he was forced to defer the admission as his mother who, according to him, funds for the home, said she lacked the financial strength to pay the school fees.

A disappointed Emmanuel left Kaduna for Lagos last year, with the sole purpose to work and raise money to further his education, without envisaging any hitch in his plan. But the incident of February 19, 2018, has changed the entire course of his life, from saving for a tertiary education to disentangling himself from the murder charges slammed against him.

In this interview with Emmanuel, he wished that the hand of the clock could be turned back in order for him to undo the issue that landed him in this intricate case.

Casting a forlorn look on this reporter, Emmanuel, in an emotion-laden tone narrated the incident that introduced a cataclysmic trend in his life.

He began on a note of regret: "Had I heeded my mother's call to return home last month, perhaps, I would not have been in this trouble." He buried his face in his palms, waited for a while before continuing in tears.

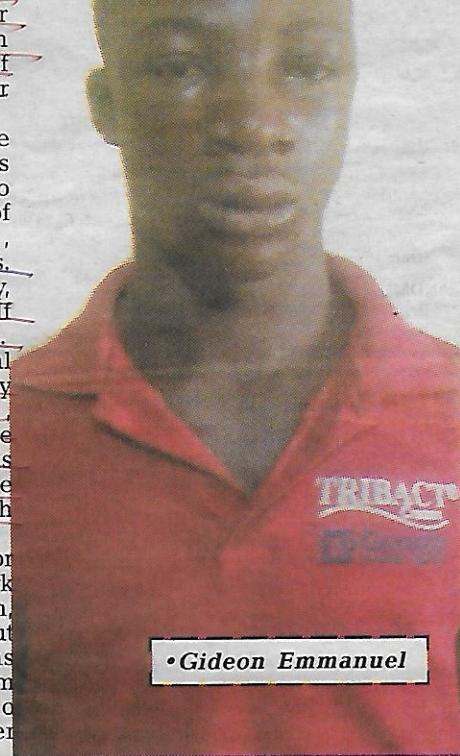
#### My Lagos experience

"When I arrived Lagos, I had no where to stay because I did not know anybody here. I was only told to come to Mile 12 where I would find other boys of my age weaving broom. On arrival, I joined them in the broom weaving work at Adonkai street, Owodele, Mile 12. At times, we would sleep in the factory, and wake up the next day to continue. My planned journey to Lagos was to raise money to study Petrochemical Engineering since my mother said she had no money to send me to higher institution.

#### Trouble

"We were paid according to the quantity of broom one was able to weave. I was paired with Chibuzor who was also from my state of origin- Enugu. At the end of work last week, he was paid but he held on to my share of N2,500, with a promise to pay me later. Each time I requested for my money, he would tell me to be patient. Last Saturday, he pushed me, I fell and broke my skull (displaying where he sustained a deep cut). It was the third time I demanded for my money that led me to where I am today."

#### How his colleague died



•Gideon Emmanuel

Again, he buried his face in his palms and mumbled silently in an undecipherable tone. He wiped his tears with his palm and braced up to continue. "On that fateful Monday, I sat in front of our work place, when I sighted Chibuzo walk inside. I followed him and collected one of the knives we used to weave broom. When he stepped outside, I demanded for my money and we began to quarrel. I wielded the knife just to scare him but he did not fall for the trick. Rather, he surged forward, daring me to stab him. At that point, the knife fell from me, I picked it up and warned him not to come near me but he did not listen. He told other colleagues who wanted to separate us to stay away, that he would teach me the lesson of my life. It was when he rushed to lift me off the ground the knife thrust into his stomach. It was never my intention to kill him. I have never fought in my life. This is the first time I would fight with someone which resulted in his death.

#### My regret

"My regret is not yielding to my mother's instruction to come home. She called me in January to ask how I was faring. She also said I should come home that she was ready to sponsor my university education. But I thought it was all a ploy to lure me home. I don't know if she is aware of what has happened. I only came to Lagos to work and save for my education so as to lessen the burden for my poor mother. This is not what I bargained for. My dream was to become a Petrochemical Engineer. But that has been shattered."

The teenager as gathered, would be charged to court on Monday.