

Two Ondo varsity students drowned during hotel pool party



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...police quiz hotel manager, launches probe

Two undergraduate students of **Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA)**, Ondo State, have died after reportedly drowning in a hotel swimming pool during a party organised for newly matriculated students.

The victims were identified as Adegbola Blessing, 19, and Oludere Opeyemi, 22. They were said to have drowned during a swimming pool party hosted by the hotel to celebrate newly admitted students.

The spokesperson for the Ondo State Police Command, DSP Jimoh Abayomi, confirmed the incident in a statement issued on Wednesday in Akure, the state capital.

Abayomi said the incident was first reported at the Akungba Divisional Police Headquarters by the hotel's pool manager, identified simply as Shittu.



“On the 29th of January, 2026, a report was received at the Akungba Divisional Police Headquarters from one Shittu, male, the pool manager of University Lounge and Hotel, Akungba-Akoko, regarding an unfortunate incident that occurred during a swimming pool party organized by the hotel for newly matriculated students.

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“According to the report, at about 2000hrs on the same date, one Adegbola Blessing, male, aged 19 years, was discovered unconscious inside the hotel’s swimming pool. He was immediately rescued by the pool manager and administered first aid. The victim reportedly regained consciousness, was able to stand, and was subsequently taken home by his friends.

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“Shortly thereafter, another individual, Oludere Opeyemi, male, aged 22 years, was also discovered unconscious in the swimming pool. He was promptly rescued and rushed to the State Hospital, Ikare-Akoko, where he was later confirmed dead by medical personnel,” he said in the statement.

Abayomi added, “Following the report, operatives of the Akungba Divisional Police Station were promptly deployed to the scene on the night of the incident to commence investigation. Meanwhile, the hotel manager, Ayomide Badejo, a female, and the pool manager were invited for questioning as part of the preliminary investigation.

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“Further developments occurred in the early hours of 30th January, 2026, at about 0700hrs, when the first victim, Adegbola Blessing, was reported to have also passed on. Consequently, the case was transferred to the Command’s Monitoring Unit for discreet, thorough, and comprehensive investigation.”

He revealed that the remains of the deceased persons have been deposited at the State Hospital, Ikare-Akoko morgue for an autopsy as part of the ongoing investigation process.

Meanwhile, the State Commissioner of Police, CP Adebowale Lawal, called on hotel owners and operators across the state to prioritise guest safety by installing functional safety equipment, ensuring proper supervision around swimming pools, and enforcing safety regulations to prevent avoidable incidents.

Adebowale, however, assured residents that the circumstances surrounding the deaths would be fully investigated and any culpability established, appealing to the public to remain calm and avoid speculation while investigations continue.



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