

Student dies in Jikwoyi hotel pool

By Ben Atonko

A 21-year-old student identified as Joseph Adamu on Monday evening died after drowning in a swimming pool at Sada Cruz Hotel, Jikwoyi, Abuja.

A relative of the deceased said the student went for a swim Monday evening but was found dead in the pool yesterday morning.

The police in the area on getting information about the tragedy arrested three staff of the hotel; including the hotel's manager over the incident.

When our reporter visited the hotel yesterday afternoon, business activities were dull as guests had deserted the place. The hotel workers were seen in groups discussing the incident.

At Jikwoyi Police Station, the hotel's pool manager, Jeremiah Iloh, who is under detention, said the student came with a receipt that he wanted to swim and was asked if he knew how to swim.

He said the student said he couldn't swim and was registered for swimming lessons.

"I started teaching him how to

swim. There were many guests in the pool whom I was coaching. I asked him to restrict himself to the shallow part [of the pool] since he doesn't know how to swim. I was teaching others bearing in mind that he was in the shallow side of the pool.

"He went out of the pool to meet his cousin who was in the main bar upstairs.

"When he came back to swim, I noticed he took something. I asked him, 'did you take anything?' he said 'yes'. I told him to stay out of the pool and dragged him out of the pool.

"I had in mind the guy had left—I saw him leave. I was coaching children. My mind focused on the children.

"Then it was time to close and I gathered everybody and told them, please, our closing time is 6 pm. Start getting ready, we will soon close. They agreed—some started leaving before 6 pm. I went with the children to the changing room to dress them up and leave.

"I never knew that that guy still went back when I left for the changing room and dived into

the pool. Nobody told me someone was in the pool at that time, which was 7 pm.

"As I was going outside the pool premises, two guys walked up to me saying they were looking for somebody. After giving a description, I said yes, I saw somebody like that. I directed them to the direction I thought he was. They went there but they saw only his clothes. The children were many, I had to guide them out of the place," the pool manager explained.

A relative of the deceased said when he visited the hotel that evening much time was wasted in searching hotel's rooms until somebody dived into the pool to conduct a search and discovered the body.

As at the time of filling this report, the corpse was deposited at Asokoro General Hospital, while arrangements are on to bury the remains.

When contacted, FCT Police Spokesman, Superintendent Jimoh Moshood, said he was not aware of the incident and would find out details from Jikwoyi Divisional Police Station.