

Lion kills handler at Obasanjo wildlife park

From Azeez Olorunlome, Abeokuta

A tragic incident unfolded at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library Wildlife Park in Abeokuta, Ogun State, as a male lion fatally attacked its handler, Babaji Daule.

The 35-year-old handler from Bauchi State was mauled by the lion in the early hours of Saturday.

According to reports, the incident occurred due to a lapse in safety protocols.

The park's Chief Security Officer stated that Daule "carelessly neglected to secure the locks and barricade the lion's enclosure" before entering to feed the animal.

This allowed the lion to escape and attack, inflicting serious injuries to Daule's neck.

Emergency services were alerted around 7:40 a.m., but Daule succumbed to his wounds.

His body was transferred to the State Hospital mortuary in Ijaye, Abeokuta.

The lion was subsequently shot.

The Ogun State Police Command confirmed the incident, echoing the Chief Security Officer's account of events.

Spokesperson SP Omolola Odutola said the handler's failure to secure the enclosure led to the tragedy.