

Police arrest man over death of three-year-old found in septic tank

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Date: 18 Jul 2025

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The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command has arrested a resident of Durumi 2, Abuja, following the tragic death of a three-year-old boy who drowned in an uncovered septic tank on Tuesday night.

The suspect, identified as Philip Jallo, was taken into custody by operatives from the Durumi Divisional Headquarters after the incident, which occurred around 9:00 p.m. on July 16, 2025.

According to Police investigations, the child was playing within the residential compound when he slipped and fell into the exposed septic tank filled with human waste.

He was pulled out but was later confirmed dead at the hospital.

The FCT Police Command said the tank had long posed a danger to residents in the area, with several neighbours reportedly raising alarm and urging Jallo to properly cover the structure.

Despite repeated warnings, he allegedly failed to take any action.

“The uncovered soakaway was left dangerously open, despite repeated appeals by concerned neighbours. The suspect’s negligence has now resulted in a tragic and entirely avoidable loss of life,” the police said in a statement issued by Josephine Adeh, FCT Police Public Relations Officer.

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The Commissioner of Police, FCT Command, expressed deep sorrow over the incident and extended condolences to the bereaved family.

He emphasized the need for residents to prioritize environmental safety within their communities.

“This heartbreaking event is a stark reminder of how negligence can turn deadly.

“We urge all residents to ensure their environments are safe, and call on parents and guardians to be vigilant and closely monitor their children to prevent similar occurrences”, the Commissioner stated.

The police noted that the suspect remains in custody while the investigation continues.

The FCT Police have reiterated their commitment to ensuring justice for the victim and holding accountable anyone whose negligence threatens the safety of others, particularly vulnerable children.