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Perhaps, if the young promising undergraduate medical student had an inkling of his imminent death, he would have done a rethink and not go to a hotel's swimming pool.

Initially, he wanted to visit his course mates in their rooms to 'gist' after the day's hectic lectures but he changed his and decided to cool off at a hotel's swimming pool.

By 7.00p.m on Monday, January 15, 2007, Kayode Kiyomi, unaware of what fate had in store for him, headed straight to Aqua Club, situated at No. 915 Ajaka, Makun, Shagamu, Ogun State, to swim.

Fifteen minutes after he dived into the water, he got drowned.

Prior to the unsavoury development, sources told *Saturday Independent* that the 27-year-old medical student of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Shagamu, was a regular caller at the hospitality where he used to cool his nerves.

But the fatal incident of that fateful day eventually jolted the management of the hospitality. They wondered how the deceased, who many people, including staff and guests to the club often looked up to for his exceptional feat in swimming, could die easily in the pool.

According to sources, the 400 level undergraduate student of Health Sciences, OOUTH, Shagamu, initially dove into the pool and swam for five minutes before he came out. Later, he dove again into the water and when after 15 minutes he did not come out, a lifeguard, Mr. Kebra Kokowei, who happened to be the manager of the hospitality, rushed to find out what was amiss.

It was gathered that the manager dove into the water and brought out the undergraduate student, who was still panting.

Kebra attempted to assist the victim through 'mouth-to-mouth resuscitation' before he was rushed to Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Shagamu for treatment when he noticed he was pale.

However, Kayode died shortly after he was admitted for treatment.

"Kayode was known by virtually all the staff to the club and this is because he called at the club at least twice a week to swim at the pool. He was so much loved by all and sundry because displayed exceptional ability in swimming. And often times, he used to compete with other people and he would beat them. But this very day, Monday, January 15, 2007 around 7.00p.m, he called at the club to swim. But before he dove into the water, he and the club manager chatted for a few minutes before he (club manager) left him to attend to other assignments. I and some other visitors, who were watching Kayode from afar when he was swimming, saw him when he first dove into the water. This is because we always admired the way he dove into the water like a fish. After the initial dive, he swam for almost five minutes before he came out of the water. Second time, he went back but spent close to 15 minutes and when we did not see him come out of the water, we alerted the club manager, Mr. Kebra

# Tragedy: Medical Student Drowns In Hotel Swimming Pool



• Kayode Kiyomi

Kokowei, who also happened to be one of the lifeguards around at that time. Immediately, he surged towards the pool and sensed that Kayode was no

more at his best; he dove into the water to rescue him. He brought him out and applied first aid by way of 'from-mouth-to-mouth resuscitation' to revive but to no avail. And

that was what happened before he was rushed to Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Shagamu for treatment", said an eyewitness.

*We always admired the way he dove into the water like a fish. After the initial dive, he swam for almost five minutes before he came out of the water. He went back and spent close to 15 minutes and when we did not see him come out of the water, we alerted the club manager*

An undergraduate student identity card, belonging to OOUTH, Shagamu, found in his pocket, simply identified him as Kayode.

Impeccable sources hinted that the identity card found in his pocket made it possible for the authorities of OOUTH to get across to the victim's parents' abode located at Plot 402, Abayomi Kiyomi Street, Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos.

But homicide detectives from Shagamu Area Police Command, Shagamu suspected that the victim might have died as a result of heart failure.

A senior police officer at the headquarters said that the victim might be suffering cardiac problem.

Thus, the detectives pledged to get to the root of the incident as soon as post-mortem examination was carried out on the deceased.

Subsequently, the parents of the deceased have asked the police and authorities of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Shagamu to release the corpse to them for immediate interment.

Owing to their Islamic faith, it was learnt that the family declined attempts to carry out autopsy on the deceased, arguing that since Kayode slumped inside a pool before his death, had given it enough conviction that the incident was truly a matter of sudden and unnatural death (SUD).

A hand-written letter by the father of the deceased, Mr. Abayomi Kiyomi to the Area Commander, Shagamu Headquarters, it read thus:

"I am the father of the above-named person whose body is lying in the mortuary of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Shagamu, Ogun State".

"He is alleged to have died after a swimming pool accident at a Shagamu Hotel on Monday, January 15, 2007.

I understand that legally, there ought to be a post-mortem examination on that body.

May, I humbly request that this requirement be waived in order to quicken the interment of the body and also minimise our sorrow as parents who are strong Muslims".

Consequently, the police and authorities of OOUTH had heeded the written request and released the corpse to the family.

The remains of Kayode Kiyomi were, however, committed to mother earth on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 according to Muslim rites.

Efforts made to reach the Ogun State Police Command spokesman, Mr. Femi Awoyale, Superintendent of Police, to confirm the report proved unsuccessful, as he was not reached when his mobile number was called.

But the Shagamu Area Commander, Mr. Francis Adetosoye, Assistant Commissioner of Police, confirmed that the corpse had been released to the parents of the victim for interment.

According to the police boss, the immediate release of the corpse to the family was on the strength of a letter written to the command by the father of the deceased, Abayomi Kiyomi, a devout Muslim, who did not want to keep the corpse at the mortuary for long.