

Girl, 11, Drowns Trying To Fetch Rainwater



• Titi Rafiu

By Anthony Okoro
REPORTER, Lagos

An 11-year-old schoolgirl, Titi Rafiu, has died trying to fetch rainwater at 24, Ring Road, in Jaffa area of Agbado, a suburb of Ogun State.

Saturday Independent learnt that the downpour started on the fateful day around 6.45 a.m.

The rain, it was gathered, was so heavy that within a few moment of the downpour, virtually the whole area had been flooded.

According to reports, as the rain was falling, Titi came out to try and fetch some water for the domestic use of the family.

It was gathered that the deceased had fetched several buckets of water before she met her untimely death.

Saturday Independent was informed that before the ugly incident, Titi's elder brother, Kayode Rafiu, had warned her to leave what she was doing. But his warnings fell on deaf ears.

Instead, of heeding his brother's admonition, Titi reportedly insisted on filling the last keg.

Unfortunately, she slipped into the gutter in front of the house.

And the flood immediately pulled her into bigger and more violent one that eventually swept her away.

It was gathered that a search party, comprising experienced divers in the area, immediately swung into action by jumping into the rampaging flood in search of her.

Reports said it took the divers more than four hours to locate the teenage girl a few kilometres away, in the neighbouring Adiyen Village, also in Ogun State.

However, by the time she was found, she was already dead.

She had since been buried. Residents said the father of the deceased had left home for office before the incident occurred.

Titi's mother, a fish seller was inconsolable.

She occasional murmured amidst outburst of tears: "I finished, my Titi has died."

When *Saturday Independent* visited the area last week, normal commercial and social activities were yet to return to the entire Jaffa and its environs.

Most residents blamed the parents for always allowing their children to go out for water in the midst of such heavy downpour.

Investigations revealed that for the past five years, residents of the area had been at the mercy of relentless flooding, which has wrecked havoc on property in the community.

For residents of the community, the fear has become the begging of wisdom.

While other communities see rain as a source of joy

and blessing from God, Jaffa Villagers see rain as a curse.

"Anytime there is an indication that rain was about to fall, the entire community will start panicking. This is because anytime rain falls, the whole community would be taken over by flood and this has now become a serious problem for us," a community leader, Gbenga Adegoke said.

According to him, flood has destroyed many houses, house-

hold items, crops, and even human lives.

"The death of that little girl is the second of such tragedy to happen in our community in the past two years. Another person, a boy, had died in similar circumstance in the past. It is a very big problem to the community and we don't know what to do to checkmate the flood menace," he added.

Saturday Independent's investigations revealed that the drainage network in the area has since deteriorated, paving way for incessant flooding of the community.

There are no gutters and those that hitherto existed had been taken over by debris.

Reports also said hundreds of people have fled the area because of the flood problem.

"The flood has submerged so many buildings, rendering several people homeless. Most of the buildings have shown signs of cracks and are no longer fit for habitation. This is why so many people have left the place to safer places," another community leader, Rande Ayodele said.

Residents said they have made several representations to Ogun State Government to come to their rescue to no avail.

"The government keep on promising us that they will do something, but up till now, nothing has been done. Government should come to our help because we don't want this kind of calamity to occur among us again," Ayodele stated.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as **MRS IFEYINWA ALOZIE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS IFEYINWA KINGSLEY NWANDIRE**. All former documents remain valid; Corporate Affairs Commission and the general public please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **SAMUEL CHUKWUMAOBI DIKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **STANLEY CHUKWUMAOBI MADU**. All former documents remain valid; the general public take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **MRS BOLAJOKO MARTINA LAWANI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS BOLAJOKO MARTINA GBADAMOSI**. All former documents remain valid; the general public take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNTO GOD MINISTRIES

The above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration, in harmony with "Part C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Anthony Ozoemena Ugochukwu Ezeabasili (Founder)
2. Mrs. Florence Nneka Chinenye Ezeabasili (Secretary)
3. Reverend Spencer Uzoma Ibe

Its aims and objectives are:

1. To preach the undiluted Gospel of Jesus Christ and to improve the personality of people through the preaching of the Gospel
2. To sponsor and organize scripture-based youth empowerment programs.
3. To promote righteousness, faithfulness, and other good qualities, and to engage in humanitarian activities.
4. To mentor young ones, widows and orphans, to encourage people to lead purposeful, prosperous and fulfilled lives.
5. To preach and teach the Bible locally and internationally.

Any objection to the above registration should please be forwarded to the Corporate Affairs Commission not less than twenty eight days after this publication.

Signed: Secretary