

Petrol Station Manager Dies After Being Found In Underground Tank

KOFA KINGS, SUNDAY APAH

UGHELLI

2
There was palpable tension in Ughelli, Delta State, after a manager of petrol station, Mr. Dennis Ikroje, died after being discovered in an underground tank by a co-staff.

Though the circumstances surrounding his death could not be ascertained at press time, sources said the man who was said to be in his early thirties, reportedly went to work very early on that faithful morning at the petrol station situated along Ughelli/ Patani Road and allegedly went to the underground tank with 20 gallon and a hose for yet unknown reason.

The source who pleaded anonymity, alleged that when other workers resumed, they discovered the manager was in the manhole leading to the underground tank struggling for breath.

It was gathered that the workers immediately raised alarm which attracted the guards and other people around, the source said.

The source added the manager was immediately rushed to a clinic but was referred to the Central Hospital, Ughelli, where he was confirmed dead by a doctor.

Efforts made to reach the management of the petrol station and family of the deceased manager for comments on the matter, proved abortive as at press time.

However, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, DSP Bright Edafe, who confirmed the incident, said he was yet to get details of the matter.

But, a Senior Police Officer in the area, confirmed that the matter was reported, adding that the Police have deposited the corpse in the morgue.

The Police officer who does not want his name in print, said the matter was already being investigated.

Meanwhile, Chief Ovuoke Oshasha, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Filling Station, has advised the family of the deceased to remain calm and wait for the outcome of the police investigation for peaceful resolution.

Chief Oshasha who gave the advice while reacting to the incident, said he got a call from one of the policemen on ground on the day of the incident, that they found the manager of the filling station in a manhole.

He explained that he directed those of them on ground to rush him to the hospital, where the doctor confirmed that he was dead.

"Thereafter, I sent my General Manager to the Ughelli 'A' Police station to report the issue, and an IPO was sent to the hospital, after the doctor also confirm to him of the manager's death, the police took him to the mortuary before they (police) came to the scene for proper investigation of what happened.

"So when the police got there, they discovered that there was a 25 liter gallon, a funnel and two inches galvanized pipe. They are all with the police as I speak to you," he said.

On allegation that he didn't contact the family after the incident, he said, "I was waiting for the police to call the family and I so that we can sit together and talk but they told me that they were angry."