

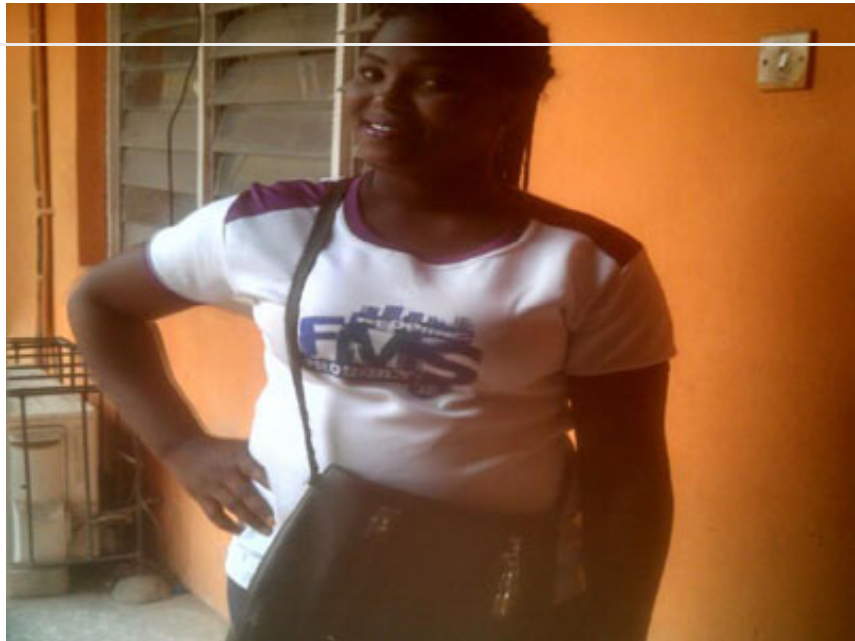
How LASU student died, by colleagues

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Colleagues of the late Lara Omowunmi Gbadeyan of the Lagos State University (LASU) yesterday painted a picture of how she died at a party last Friday.

A 200 level History and International Studies student, Olugbenga Pelumi, said Lara, who was a part II student of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management (IRPM), had too much to drink at the party.

He said: “Lara, who never took alcohol before, out of probable peer influence, decided to drink. During the course of the party, she drank many cups of alcoholic spirits (Elliot and Magic Moments). When she got drunk, Lara began to misbehave and her friends took it for the normal drama inherent in drunkenness. It, however, proved to be much more than that, as she began to shout and speak languages alien to the ears. Students who were present poured water on her, she asked to urinate, which she did. After a while, blood was seen dropping from her nose and later her mouth. She was rushed to a hospital. The students who were there initially felt it was as a result of her actions under the alcohol’s influence, because during the course of her drunkenness, she threw herself on the floor and her friends tried frantically to hold her. She was later rushed to a hospital.”

Pelumi said Lara was confirmed dead at the hospital.

News of Lara’s death, he said, spread on the campus and hostels within an hour and it hit most students with a shock.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Lanre Fagbohun, ordered that her body be taken to Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) at Ikeja for autopsy.

Some of her friends were also arrested and released by the police.

Students’ Union leaders, who visited LASUTH, were initially harassed by Lara’s parents, who demanded the

prosecution of the students that went to the party with her.

Lara's parents, it was learnt, calmed down when a doctor identified alcohol as the cause of Lara's death.

The doctor was quoted as saying: "She took excessive alcohol, which she apparently has not taken before; this affected the flow of blood in her brain".

Advising his peers, Pelumi said: "This is a lesson for undergraduates. Don't do things because your friends do them. What they have survived might kill you. There is nothing particularly bad in attending parties; it's something to be enjoyed. However, always think of your family when you take actions."

Omope Olawunmi, a 200 level student of the same department said: "What you cannot do at home, don't do it in school. It's not a must you take alcohol at parties, you can take malt or yoghurt. Girls should also imbibe the culture of self discipline."

Another 200 level student, Maryam Rasaq, said: "University students should not misuse their freedom. The fact that you are in a university does not mean you have the right to behave anyhow. We should try as much as possible to be disciplined no matter the temptations and peer influence."