



## Girl dies inside well

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A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl, Rachael Oyeniyi, on Monday fell into a 80-foot deep well and was suffocated.

*The Nation* learnt that the late Rachael was playing with her friends when she fell into the abandoned well at 8 Jezza Street, in Egbeda, Lagos, around 5pm.

A neighbour, Olufunmilayo Ariyo, said Rachael was jumping on the well singing: "*Iya mi ko le be; baba mi ko le be; emi ni kan lo le be*" when the accident happened. I am yet to get over the shock because I heard her voice from my room with other children playing. How she fell, I don't know."

A friend to the Oyeniyis, Michael Mekuleyi, described the incident as horrible adding that the infant just returned from Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, the fateful day.


"Her parents have marital issues. I learnt her daddy went to forcefully take her away from her mother and brought her to Lagos around 1pm. She lives with her mother. Just few hours after she returned, the incident happened. When I saw her body, it looked as if she was only taking a nap. This is indeed a cruel world," he said.



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Residents thronged the Oyeniyi's home to see her body lying in the sitting room.

The late Rachael's aunt, Romoke, said: "We were outside together. She came to meet me that she wanted water but I didn't give her because it wasn't long before she drank a cup of water. She returned to play. She was jumping on the well and before I knew what was happening, I didn't see her again. Her dad has been taken to Mosalasi Police Station. Her mother came yesterday when her father brought her but she returned to Abeokuta. She has been informed but she is not here yet. Rachael is the first child of her parents while Emmanuel, her brother, is a baby."

A neighbour, who did not give his name, said he saw the late Rachael's father, Gbenga, buying bread for his daughter adding that when he entered the compound, he was dumbfounded.

"The fire fighters were contacted immediately. It took about two hours before she was brought out. Over five people entered the well but they couldn't bring her out because they complained of the heat in the well. It was until a man who was passing by entered and brought her out dead. The well is an abandoned well. In fact they have been filling it with sand. Children play a lot around there and it was sealed with iron lock. I keep thinking of how the weight of a little girl could remove the iron. It is so unfortunate."

The house where Rachael's body was laid has been sealed off by some police officers.