

FAAN begins probe of corpse found on Lagos Airport runway

By Kelvin Osa Okunbor

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The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) said it has begun investigations into the discovery of a mutilated body found at the runway of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos.

Acting General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Mrs Faithful Hope – Ivbaze said FAAN and relevant security agencies are seeking information that would reveal the identity of the dead man.

She said a motorized cleaner that was cleared to carry out a duberization and sweeping of the runway discovered the remains at about 0106hours, and escalated the situation to relevant departments. She said : “ As a result, between 0110 and 0343 hours, she said the runway was temporarily closed to allow for immediate evacuation of the remains. Flight operations resumed at 0343 hours.

“Investigations are ongoing, and a report will be issued accordingly.”

Recall that the international wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, was temporarily shut in the early hours of Thursday after the mangled body of a dead man was found on Runway 18R of the nation’s flagship airport.

The identity of the corpse could not be ascertained as of press time. Also, it could not be established whether the dead man was knocked down by an aircraft taking off or landing on the runway.

However, airport officials told our correspondent that the runway was temporarily shut down while a team of officials from the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and the Nigeria Police Force evacuated the corpse from the runway.

During the temporary shutdown of the runway, international flights were prevented from landing and taking off from the airport's international terminal.

Among the flights that could not land due to the shutdown was Ethiopian Airlines flight 3907, a Boeing 77F aircraft with registration number ETAVN, which was coming from Lome, Togo to Lagos, Nigeria.

The flight was later diverted back to Lome after holding for a while.

Airport officials said the corpse was suddenly found on Runway 18R during a routine runway inspection by FAAN personnel.

The officials were said to have reported a corpse on the runway around the cargo area.

According to him, the police are still investigating the identity of the dead man and how he got to the security area of the international airport.