

Chidera Eze: CPN urges sensitisation on child safeguarding policy

- Group seeks swimming lessons ban

By Damola Kola-Dare On May 26, 2022



Late Eze

Child Protection Network (CPN), Lagos State chapter, has advocated regular sensitisation on child safeguarding policy for schools, parents and guardians.

It also berated Redeemers Nursery and Primary School, Ogba, Lagos State, for alleged “neglect” following the death its pupil.

Chidera Eze, a five-year-old pupil of the school reportedly drowned during a swimming lesson.

Some teachers and caregivers of the school reportedly took Chidera and his colleagues for swimming lesson at the Ivory Health Club, Ogundana Street, Ikeja, during which he drowned.

In a statement by its Lagos State Coordinator, Mrs. Ronke Oyelakin, the CPN stressed the need to protect children.

It added that the school should be held accountable for failure to protect the deceased pupil.

“Children are meant to be protected from harm, including abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence as established in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Child Right Act 2003, Child Right Law of Lagos State 2015 and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy of Lagos State 2016.

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“The school should be held accountable for its failure to protect Chidera from this unfortunate incident.

“There is need for more awareness and sensitisation on Child Safe Guarding Policy so that schools can be prepared for the consequences thereof in the event of non-compliance.

“Let our children in Lagos State live and not die as a result of carelessness,” it said in the statement.

The group also urged government and education ministry to ban swimming lessons, and if schools want to engage in such, they should adhere to safety precautions and avoid using adult pools.

“Government and Ministry of Education should ban swimming lessons. If they must swim, adult pools should not be used. They should use pool for children and they must obey safety precautions. Life savers should also be on ground with caregivers and swimming instructors. The activity should be under strict monitoring.”

The group urged owners of recreational centres (hotels or swimming centres) to put proper safety measures in place to forestall a recurrence.

“Our children do not deserve to die like this. Every child’s life is precious to God, her parents and the society. This is pure carelessness on the part of the school.”

“If nothing is done, who knows whose child is next. This has to stop and measures put in place. What excuse would the caregiver or teacher give for not protecting the children in her care?” it added.