

Missing child:

Mothers protest in Lagos

From RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

MOTHERS in Lagos last Thursday staged a protest over a missing two-year-old child, Adeola Akinware, a pupil of St. Saviour's School in Ijegan, Ikotun, alleging the proprietress of the school, Mrs. Beatrice Buwah of conspiracy over the disappearance last month.

The mothers, numbering about 50 also accused the policemen at Ikotun area of illegal detention of the missing child parents on the order of the school proprietress for some hours before release on June 2, 2006.

During the protest to the Lagos State Government Secretariat, Alausa, the mothers under the aegis of Concerned Mothers, urged government to hurriedly wade into the matter, as they were not satisfied with the way it was being handled by the Nigerian Police.

The mother of the missing child, Mrs. Josephine Akinware noted that her daughter, Adeola, disappeared from the premises of the school and all efforts to locate her had proved abortive.

According to her, the proprietress of the school, Mrs. Buwah ordered herself and husband arrested by the police for daring to ask for their daughter's whereabouts.

She said they were able to secure their freedom from the Ikotun Police Station from

where the matter was subsequently transferred to the Ikeja Headquarters and subsequently re-assigned to the Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Lagos.

According to Akinware, the security personnel in the school affirmed that the child did not leave the school premises adding that it was not the first time a child would get missing from the school.

She however appealed, "The state government should please help me look for my child. I don't have the money and the contacts to prosecute the case in court. I have worked with the school for 13 years. Last year, it was a nine-year old that got missing, my child was seen around 3.15pm on that day, she got missing between 3.15pm and 4.30pm."

Counsel to the family of the child, Mr. Marc-All Adudu noted that the family was more interested in getting justice through a thorough investigation, which would lead to the whereabouts of the child rather than hurriedly proffering charges against some persons.

Adudu noted that there was a lot to be unraveled because of the antecedents and the sudden disappearance of the child.

He stressed that the re-occurrence of the heinous act within the school was what provoked the Concerned Mothers to stage the process.

The counsel remarked, "The continuous existence of this

kind of act besmacks the government's, non-governmental organization, agencies, and bodies desires to stamp out kidnapping, child trafficking, child labour, rituals and cultism from the society," he said.

Proprietress of the School, Mrs. Beatrice Buwah declined a telephone interview.

However, all efforts to get the police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni proved abortive as when contacted on phone, he was said to be in meeting with his boss.

Ondo G to boost

From ODEYEMI SAMUEL
Akure

ABOUT one billion Naira has been injected into boosting water supply for drinking and sanitation in Ondo State.

Information Commissioner, Mr. John Ola Mafo, who disclosed the government's commitment to the provision of potable water to all homes in the state, said the Executive Council, at its last week's meeting approved 936.4 million Naira to the state water corporation to step up water supply.

He said 21 million Naira was also approved for WATSAN to enhance its duties of supplementing water supply in the state through rehabilitating and drilling