

David's son: Eight domestic staffers with police

How Ifeanyi drowned in swimming pool

Singer, Chioma devastated, they didn't ignore prophet's warning — Source

Celebrities, fans cry, pray for Davido Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, Oluwo others commiserate with singer

By Segun Adebayo

NIGERIAN music star, David Adeleke, famously known as Davido, and his fiancée, Chioma, are currently devastated over the death of their child, Ifeanyi, who drowned inside the swimming pool of their palatial Banana Island house in Lagos on Monday evening.

The death of Ifeanyi came as a shock to Davido, who is said to be preparing for his 30th birthday celebration, which would be followed by a carnival-like wedding ceremony between him and Chioma.

He was said to have been speechless for hours while Chioma wept uncontrollably.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that Davido and Chioma were in Ibadan on Sunday for a family event but returned to Lagos on Monday afternoon to receive the shocking news of the death of their son who clocked three years last week Thursday.

Davido and his crew were left in a state of confusion as none of them could explain how Ifeanyi got into the swimming pool and stayed under water for some minutes before help could come. It was gathered that Ifeanyi's caregivers and some of Davido's aides, numbering nine, were at home on Monday and looked after the boy before the incident occurred.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the deceased's caregivers noticed the boy's sudden disappearance from the house at about 6:00pm and started looking for him until they rushed to the swimming pool side where they noticed a strange movement inside the water.

They were said to have retrieved Ifeanyi, who had drowned, and rushed him to a Lagos hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival by the doctor on duty.

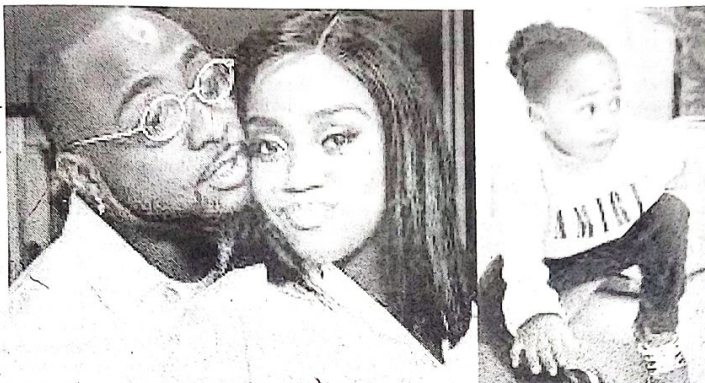
The news of Ifeanyi's death was said to have rattled the entire 30BG crew as they rushed to the hospital.

It was learnt that before the arrival of Davido at the hospital, no member of his crew or the aides was allowed to go inside the hospital except Davido and two of his close friends.

Others were told to wait outside and warned not to release any information about the incident to the public.

This explained why none of them could confirm the incident despite series of calls made to their phones by friends and families of the singer.

As soon as news filtered into the social media space that Davido's son had died, the entertainment industry was thrown into confusion with some of his colleagues praying



and wishing that the news was not true.

The social media space became tense when actress Eniola Badmus posted a broken emoji on her Instagram page sending shivers down the spine of many who had stayed up late to confirm if the news was true.

She was forced to pull down the post following backlash from fans asked her to wait for Davido to break the news himself.

Information pieced together by the *Nigerian Tribune* revealed that the bereaved Davido, who was planning to have a big 30th birthday celebration later in the year, was quickly rushed to his father's house in Lekki where he was later joined by Chioma.

News of the tragic drowning has been trending globally, with fans and colleagues from the entertainment industry sending their heartfelt condolences to the couple, who during a trip to London last month, announced they would be getting married.

He didn't ignore prophet's warning—Source

A source who had confirmed the news of Ifeanyi's death to the *Nigerian Tribune* on Tuesday morning dismissed insinuations that the singer ignored the prophetic revelation about his family, saying "those who know David would tell you how serious he is when it comes to spiritual matters. We have heard series of prophecies and we always adhere but no one could question God on this particular incident."

Pensive mood in Davido's camp as police begin investigation

The mood in the singer's camp as of Tuesday evening remained pensive as no one could explain what the outcome of police investigation would be after eight of Davido's

domestic staff were invited and detained by the police.

A source reliably told the *Nigerian Tribune* that all engagements regarding bookings and shows have been canceled for now until Davido decides otherwise.

The police, however, denied that the domestic staff were arrested, insisting that they were "brought to the police for questioning."

The Public Relations Officer of the state police command, Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed to the *Nigerian Tribune* that Ifeanyi's death was reported to the police on Monday.

He said: "Yes, I can confirm the death of Davido's son. The case was reported to the police on Monday."

"We have not arrested anybody but eight members of Davido's domestic staff have been brought for questioning."

Incident similar to D' Banj's son

Fans were quick to relate Ifeanyi's death to that of D' Banj's son who died in similar circumstances in 2018 when it was discovered that the boy had drowned in their swimming pool, just as they urged celebrities who have swimming pools in their houses to do better by protecting their children. A worried fan said as much as celebrities want to live in luxurious and comfortable environment, they should learn how to keep their children safe.

Celebrities mourn, pray for Davido

Nigerian celebrities have been sending their condolences to Davido over the demise of his son, even as they pray for the singer and his fiancée, Chioma.

Commiserating with the singer, actor Yul Edochie wrote: "This hits so hard. No parent

deserves to go through the pain of losing a child. Sending my condolences to Davido, Chioma and the entire Adeleke family. May God give you the strength to pull through this trying period."

Another actor, Williams Uchemba, wrote: "I said I won't believe anything on social media until I personally confirmed myself. I prayed for it to be a lie. I am upset, pained and confused. Nobody deserves to feel this pain."

"Please say a prayer for David, Chioma and the entire family. Nobody deserves this kind of pain. Rest up, little one."

Popular comedian, Ayo Makun, known popularly as AY, said: "Dear Lord, we will never understand why you would give us a blessing and allow the devil to take it so quickly. No parents want to outlive their children, and it's really not fair on the few good people who do a lot to help others keep their own children alive, by giving them hopes for a better tomorrow."

Mercy Aigbe stated, "Completely heartbroken! May God Console Ifeanyi's parents, David and Chioma."

Movie star, Uche Ogbodo, wrote: "No parent deserves the pain, I swear down! I have been hurting since last night. I feel Ifeanyi's pain so much. God, why? My heart is really broken. God, please console my Igbo sister, Chioma, and Davido."

Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, others commiserate with Davido

The presidential candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu; Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, and Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi, have all commiserated with Davido and Chioma over the loss.

Sympathising with the family, Atiku tweeted, "My thoughts and prayers are with Davido and Chioma and the Adeleke family at this time. I pray for God to strengthen and comfort them."

In the same vein, the Chief Whip of the Senate, Orji Uzor Kalu, said that he had cancelled his official engagements on Tuesday to mourn the death of Davido's son, Ifeanyi.

He also expressed his condolences via his Facebook page on Tuesday.

Taking to his official Twitter account, Peter Obi tweeted, "I send my sincere condolences to Davido and Chioma over the death of their son, Ifeanyi. I cannot begin to imagine the pains they are going through at the moment. May God grant them healing, strength and comfort in this trying time. My thoughts and prayers are with the family."

Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, others commiserate with Davido