


# Delta man surrenders to Police over daughter's mysterious death, burial

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## OMOLUABI PARAPO REJECTS CULTURAL APPROPRIATION OF YORUBA HERITAGE

**A**cross history, cultural erasure has often followed a familiar pattern: it begins with distortion of narratives, progresses into appropriation, and ultimately leads to the subjugation of an entire people. Unfortunately, this sequence is unfolding today within Yoruba society.

From the rewriting of history to the misrepresentation of traditions, Yoruba culture has become a frequent target of distortion. As a people, Yorubas are naturally peaceful, tolerant, and committed to the prosperity of all Nigerians. Yet, this very openness is too often mistaken for weakness.

A recent example is the planned exhibition by Uzo Njoku, which adopts a Yoruba theme without due acknowledgment of its origins. Her "An Owambe Exhibition" not only misrepresents the correct spelling — Owanbe — but also risks diluting the authenticity of the tradition itself. Such seemingly small distortions are often the first step in broader cultural misappropriation.

Furthermore, Mrs. Uzo Njoku describes Owanbe as a "Lagos culture" without recognizing the people to whom Lagos and Owanbe truly belong. Indigenous Lagosians are Yorubas, and the Owanbe tradition is shared by all Yorubas, not just a select group. To frame it merely as a "Lagos culture" risks severing Lagos from its Yoruba roots and reinforcing the false narrative that Lagos is culturally separate from the Yoruba nation.

Equally troubling is the reported use of Igbo inscriptions on merchandise tied to the exhibition. Fabrics such as Aso Oke and Adire are exclusively Yoruba heritage items with no historical or cultural connection to the Igbo language. While art is indeed a form of expression, it must remain authentic to its source. Otherwise, it becomes a tool for distortion and the advancement of false agendas.

Omoluabi Parapo will not stand idly by while Yoruba history and heritage are rewritten, distorted, or misappropriated in any form. Our collective heritage — encompassing language, history, attire, artifacts, creativity, and innovations — is the product of centuries of sacrifice, resilience, and divine blessing from Eledumare. It is our duty to protect it and hand it down untainted to the generations to come.

We affirm that art should foster love, peace, and inclusion, but never at the expense of authenticity. Yoruba identity must not be erased, diluted, or claimed by others. It is ours, and we will defend it.

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The Delta State Police Command has confirmed that a man identified as Taye, accused of killing and secretly burying his 13-year-old daughter, Davina, has surrendered to the authorities.

According to the Command's spokesperson, SP Bright Edafe, Taye turned himself in at the Ebrumede Division, Uvwie Local Government Area, days after his wife was arrested in connection with the incident.

"Confirmed. We can't say he killed her for now till after autopsy is carried out," Edate stated in a WhatsApp message to journalists in Warri.

The disturbing case unfolded on Sunday, 7 September, at Ugbolokposo community in Uvwie, where Davina was allegedly buried under questionable circumstances.

Reports indicate that the girl had been sent to her father's house for a holiday at his request.

Her mother, Miss Dorcas, who had raised Davina single-handedly for 13 years, said she was later informed of her daughter's sudden death and burial.

Civil rights groups have urged the police to conduct a thorough investigation.

They called for Davina's body to be exhumed and a post-mortem carried out to determine the true cause of death.

"Both the suspect and his wife must face justice if found culpable. The death of this child must not be swept under the carpet," one activist said.

According to Dorcas, there were earlier warnings that she might never see her daughter again after handing her over to Taye.

She also recounted that Davina once pleaded with her over the phone to take her back home, a call intercepted by the father.

The suspect's wife, who denied involvement, claimed she had travelled for over a week and that Davina was healthy when she left. However, community members insist she also has questions to answer.

The police have assured the public that investigations are ongoing. An autopsy is expected to shed light on the cause of the teenager's death.

