

Obasanjo's school shut over four-year-old pupil's death

A school owned by former President Olusegun Obasanjo, The Bells Nursery and Primary School at Ota, Ogun State, has been shut over the death of a pupil in the school.

Four-year-old Master

I wasn't summoned by Reps – Okonjo-Iweala

The World Bank Managing Director, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, on Friday said she had not received any invitation from the House of Representatives Committee on Power and Steel.

In a statement by her Media Adviser, Paul Nwabuikwu, the former finance minister said she had also not been reached by any member of the committee, which is currently investigating the release of funds to the power

Sesan Olufowobi

Ayotunde Williams was reportedly crushed to death on Tuesday by a Coaster bus belonging to the school, which had dropped him after school hours at his house on Unity Avenue, Oju Ore, Ota.

Emeka Madunagu

The statement was a reaction to a story in a national daily (not *PUNCH*) which said the House may order her arrest for failing to honour an invitation to testify before the committee.

The report had quoted the committee's Chairman, Mr. Ndudi Elumelu, as saying that a warrant of arrest might be issued against her if she ignored the invitation.

Saturday Punch gathered that after the bus dropped little Ayotunde, the driver set it in reverse gear. Coincidentally, the pupil suddenly remembered that he forgot his lunch pack in the bus and rushed after the

However, Nwabuikwu said the former minister, who is currently in the Far East on official assignment, had not been reached by the committee, adding, "Needless to say, her commitment to transparency and the progress of Nigeria remain strong and unshakeable."

vehicle. Unfortunately, he was crushed by the bus.

Trouble, however started, when the following day, Ayotunde's father, who is a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Obalende, Lagos branch, allegedly mobilised his colleagues for an attack on the school. The police in Sango area, however, prevented the angry NURTW members from reaching the school.

Consequently, the school was shut to avoid any harm to the staff and pupils. When our correspondent visited the school on Friday, only two

guards were seen while the premises was deserted. The guards on duty told our correspondent that the school might be reopened on Monday.

There was also no staff of the school to speak with *Saturday Punch*. A notice signed by the Chairman of the school's Parent/Teachers' Association, J.T Adegboye, and pasted on the school's gate and wall, said the PTA meeting scheduled for Saturday (today) had been postponed indefinitely. It did not give any reason for the postponement.

The Police Area

Commander in Sango, Mr. Adedoye Oyelola, told our correspondent that the driver of the vehicle had been charged to court. He told our correspondent that the police would not prosecute Ayotunde's father for the foiled attack but was "appealing to him. It is not easy to lose one's child."

He said he was not aware that the school had been shut, adding, "We gave them policemen yesterday (Thursday). I thought they reopened the school. I don't know why it was not opened today."

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Jonah Iboma

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