

Lagos club absolves self from clash, Gabriel's death

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The management of Royale, a clubhouse in Ikeja, has denied complicity in the death of Gabriel Faleye, who reportedly died at the MAN Centre Police Division.

It said a clash, which led to the arrest of the deceased, happened outside the club, adding that none of the persons involved in the fight was the club's customer.

PUNCH Metro had reported that 24-year-old Gabriel and his friends had gone to the club penultimate Sunday during which a group of clubbers and Gabriel, as well as his friends engaged in a scuffle.

Gabriel was said to have left the club and was heading home when one of the aggrieved clubbers deliberately ran into him with his car.

The policemen who stormed the area afterwards, whisked Gabriel and a friend, Ibrahim Masaku, to the station despite entreaties that Gabriel should be taken to a hospital for treatment. He allegedly died in custody around 5am on Monday.

The Lagos State Police Command, however, claimed that Gabriel died in a hospital despite assertions by Ibrahim's mother, Mrs. Olatundun Masaku, that she saw the corpse inside the cell, when she visited her son.

Gabriel's mother, Mrs. Iqrat Faleye, also debunked the police's robbery allegation against her son, saying the report was a frame-up.

The Royale Manager, Tessy Bekinson, on Monday, said some people had fomented trouble outside the club on that day, adding that policemen were invited to restore normalcy.

Bekinson said the club was temporarily shut to fix items destroyed during the fight, adding that some miscreants were notorious for smoking in the area.

She said, "The fight was outside the club and those involved were not our customers. At least, I know 90 per cent of our customers; those boys don't club with us. They only hang around to take all sorts of illicit drugs. Our offence was that we invited the police on that day. Who could we have invited?"

"The clash has no connection with the club. Those people have been disturbing the neighbourhood and we have always complained to the police. Since that incident, the police have been patrolling this vicinity constantly and there is now sanity."

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