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Ovie Okpare, Warri

The family of Super Falcons coach, Florence Omagbemi, have been dealt a huge blow after their 15-year-old son, Samson, and his classmate, Darlington Taire, were found dead at Golden Tulip Hotel (Warri Airport Hotel), in Effurun, Uvwie Council Area of Delta State, where they went to swim on Monday.

Our correspondent learnt that the victims, who sat for the last Junior Secondary School Certificate Examination, in company with one of their teachers, went to the hotel to celebrate the end of the examination when the incident occurred.

The hotel, which was on Tuesday sealed off by the Federal Inland Revenue Service for tax default, is owned by former Minister of State for Education, Olorogun Kenneth Gbagi.

The deceased, who had earlier been declared missing by both families, were allegedly found floating in the swimming pool of the hotel on Wednesday.

The victims were pupils of Challenge International School in Kolokolo, Enerhen, also in



Home News Sports Metro Plus Politics Business Entertainment Opinion

allegedly collected N500 from each pupils to swim at the hotel.

On learning that the deceased went to swim at the hotel, their family members reportedly rushed to the place on Monday night in search of the boys but could not find them. The hotel workers were said to have told them that the children had gone home.

The Falcons coach's elder brother, Henry Omagbemi, confirmed the incident, saying they suspected foul play in the death of their son, calling on the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to book.

He said, "We went to the mortuary and saw the two pupils in the mortuary. They didn't look like people who had drowned in the pool because their mouths and faces were bleeding. But the legs were intact. If somebody drowns in a pool, you will see swollen stuff but there was nothing like that.

"We want justice to be done. It looks mysterious to us. We want justice to be done. The truth should be told. Covering somebody's corpse is something else. Taking somebody's corpse to the mortuary without the knowledge of his people looks suspicious."

Darlington's father, Morrison Taire, told our correspondent at his Kolokolo residence that the management of the hotel was hiding something over the death of the pupils."

He also questioned why his son was taken to the hotel for swimming without his permission and called on the ministry of education and security agencies to unravel what killed his son and his classmate.

Although efforts to speak with the hotel management were unsuccessful, a female supervisor, who declined to give her name, confirmed the incident when our correspondent visited the hotel on Thursday, saying that the corpses were seen floating in the pool on Wednesday morning and were removed in the presence of police from Ebrumede Police Station.

A source said the pool attendant and two classmates of the deceased, who took their footwear to their parents on Monday night, had been arrested by the police.

The teacher, who allegedly collected money from the deceased to take them to the hotel



[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Metro Plus](#) [Politics](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Opinion](#) [i](#)

The state Police Commissioner, Mr Zanna Ibrahim, who confirmed the incident in a text message to our correspondent, said, “On 14/6/2017 about 1000hrs one Mr. Collins Nwose, the General Manager of Golden Tulip Hotel, Effurun, reported that at about 0530hrs two male corpses were found floating in the hotel’s swimming pool.

“However, the two pupils, Muntari Sidi and Feargod Edafe, who accompanied the late pupils to the said swimming pool and the swimming pool attendant, have been arrested.”

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