

## 15-year-old pupil drowns in Lagos river

Etim Ekpimah

A 15-year-old pupil of Waymark Image Live Community School, Oke-Ira, Oko Afo, off the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Lagos, Elijah Okiki, has reportedly drowned in a river in the area.

It was gathered that 10 of the pupils of the school, between the ages of 13 and 15, left the school after the closing hour on Monday and headed for the Doghokiri community, Oko Afo, to bathe in the river.

In the process, Okiki was said to have disappeared in the water.

A resident of the area, who did not want his name in print, said Okiki was later brought out of the water and taken

to a hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

According to him, the incident happened around 3.45pm when people were still in the river taking their bathe and washing clothes.

He stated that the incident was unfortunate, adding that the river was usually calm all year round and that such an incident was uncommon around the area.

The resident stated, "Many of us were in the river bathing. We saw the pupils but since they were many, we thought they could adequately take care of themselves.

"Besides, the incidence of people drowning here is not common. That is why this one came to us as a surprise. There

is no time of the day you come to this place without seeing people.

"In my view, the pupils were young and inexperienced, that might be responsible for his drowning."

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Bala Elkana, confirmed the incident, adding that the victim drowned around 3.45pm on Monday.

He added that immediately he disappeared into the water, other students contacted the residents of the community, who dived into the water to rescue him.

The PPRO added that Okiki was brought out from the water and taken to a hospital for treatment, but the doctor

on duty confirmed that he was dead.

He said, "We received information that 10 pupils between the ages of 13 and 15 from the Waymark Image Live Community School, Oke-Ira, Oko Afo, left the school after the closing hour for the Doghokiri community in Oko Afo to bathe in a river.

"In the process, one Elijah Okiki, about 15-years-old, drowned in the river. Community people were alerted and he was brought out of the water and rushed to the Ademola Hospital, Oko Afo, where he was confirmed dead by a doctor. His body has been deposited in the hospital's morgue. Investigation into how he drowned is in progress."