

I nearly ran mad when I heard about my only child's death – Father of crushed Lagos pupil

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The late Adedoyin

Flanked by two women on whose shoulders she leaned, Bukola Adebayo trudged to the family's expansive living room from the bedroom. She sank into a cushion with a Bible clutched to her chest, sitting close to her bereaved husband, Adeyemi Adebayo.

A team of the Lagos State Government officials led by the Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folashade Adefisayo, had visited the bereaved couple's residence on Igbeyinadun Street, Sabo, on Wednesday morning to commiserate with them over the death of their only child, Adedoyin Adebayo.

Adedoyin, an SS2 pupil of Babs Fafunwa Millenium Secondary School (formerly known as Ojodu Grammar School) was going home around 2pm after closing from the school when a hit-and-run truck loaded with soap crushed her and about 14 other pupils.

The truck driver was eventually arrested while his vehicle was burnt by angry youths who also vandalised about 10 trucks on the road.

The police confirmed that two schoolchildren, 15-year-old Adedoyin, and a JSS 3 pupil, 14-year-old Israel Akpolebi, died, while others, who suffered varying degrees of injury, were admitted to different hospitals.

Speaking to *City Round* after the representatives of the state government left, 46-year-old Adeyemi explained that Adedoyin's death destabilised him and his wife.

He said, "She was the apple of our eyes; she was our only child. Till now, her mother is still unstable. I am a cab driver. In the afternoon of that day, the vehicle was faulty and I called the owner to inform him. As I was driving home, I saw some of her schoolmates waving at me and shouting 'Adedoyin.' They said she was hit by a truck.