

# Lagos prophet drowns during

Dayo Oyewo

A fun-seeking Lagos-based prophet, Oriyomi Remalokun, was said to have drowned during a beach hangout to celebrate this year's Valentine's Day in the Ajah area of the state.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the deceased led some youths of his white garment church to the Avista Beach situated in the area on Saturday, February 17, to commemorate the Day.

A source privy to the incident told our correspondent that the picnic which lasted through the evening had ended when the whereabouts of the late Oriyomi became unknown.

The colleagues were said to have immediately launched a search for his whereabouts but efforts to locate him proved abortive.

The source said, "The youths of the church parish at Gbagada were on a planned Valentine's Day love feast at the Avista Beach Resort and they were 16 in number. They first lodged at a shortlet apartment very close to the resort where they



• Late Oriyomi

had a party before later moving into the beach resort.

"Around 9pm, they prepared to leave and when they got to the car park, they discovered that Oriyomi was missing. When they asked his girlfriend, she said he gave her his phone, went in and promised to come back. They later went to the beach, searched for him and could not find him before they left."

The colleagues were said to have returned to the beach on Sunday morning to continue the search but still could not find him. They later lodged a report at the nearest police station.

When contacted, the management of Avista Beach confirmed the incident but told our correspondent that the remains of Oriyomi were washed

ashore on a separate beach located in the community on Monday.

Speaking on Tuesday, a member of the management team who craved not to be mentioned due to the sensitive nature of the incident said, "On Sunday afternoon, we saw a group of people with police officers from Ogombo Police Station.

"The police told us they came to report that someone was missing at the beach. They invited us to the station and we wrote our statement.

"After that, the police invited the remaining colleagues. About three hours after they were invited, we got a call that a body had been found at Baracuda Beach Resort. The guys did not lodge at the resort and the body was not found there. They started the search around 9pm and that time in Lagos is just like early morning. Why didn't they raise the alarm but instead went home that night? This is a beach resort where everybody comes and goes home."

# Valentine's Day beach hangout

PUNCH Metro observed that people familiar with the late prophet have mourned him while reacting to social media posts announcing his demise.

A Facebook user, Erinle Abel, who expressed sadness over his death wrote, "Honestly, I have never met a prophet that is gifted without blemish, humble in spirit

and character, very active in the vineyard and respectful to both the young and old. Our meeting was during our harvest week and since then he had been a blessing to me.

It is so unfortunate that you have to leave untimely. May God rest your soul and bless your church with more truthful prophets like you."

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# Court denies Anambra lawyer bail for brutalising maid

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

THE Children, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Court, sitting at the Chief Magistrate's Court in Awka, Anambra State has denied a lawyer, Mrs Adachukwu Okafor, bail for allegedly inflicting physical injuries on the body of her 11-year-old housekeeper.

The ordered her remand at the State Criminal and Investigative Department custody in Awka.

Okafor, who resides at Chris Igwilo Street Akapka GRA, Onitsha, Anambra State, was arraigned before the Children, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Court in Awka, on Wednesday on a two count.

The court was presided by Her Worship, Genevieve Osakwe, at the Chief Magistrate Grade 1, Awka.

Okafor was alleged to have used various objects like a broken bottle, knife, and electric iron to harm her house help, identified as Happiness Nwafor, in response to an incident involving her daughter.

The two-count borders mainly on wilfully inflicting physical injuries on the body of one Happiness Nwafor, an offence punishable under Section 4(1) of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition and Protection) Laws of Anambra State of Nigeria 2017.

The charge was read and



• Okafor

interpreted to the defendant to the satisfaction of the court; and the defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Okafor, who was reportedly said to be on the run, surrendered herself to the state police command in Awka, after the Minister of Women Affairs, Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye had placed

till February 28, 2024 for ruling.

Speaking to journalists after the court's session, the defendant's counsel, Nwankwo, when asked why it took his client time to report to the police, stated that he was not aware of any bounty placed on Okafor, explaining that he was only contacted for the job of which he immediately took the defendant to the police immediately.

He, however, accused the state Ministry of Women and Social Welfare of "already doing trial by ordeal", which he noted was not in the best interest of the case.

The victim, an 11-year-old, had since been discharged from the hospital and made appearance in court too.

Reacting to the development, the Anambra State Commissioner

nab four fake soldiers. recover amm uniton in Lagos