

Youth Drowns

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One of the youths who was playing street soccer at Mosafuneto, in Ilubinrin near Adeniji Adele in Lagos Island, Murtala Gidado, 25, has reportedly drowned in the canal adjacent a local stadium also known as *Argentina*.

P.M. News gathered from the deceased's playmates that he was playing football with some other boys on Sunday morning when the ball was kicked into the canal and about four of them went to get the ball.

Sources close to the youths said one of them eventually retrieved the ball and threw it back to the field for play to continue. But instead of joining his teammates, Gidado, an indigene of Kwara State and resident of 25, Ibomo Street, Off Isale Agbede, Idumagbo, Lagos Island was said to have jumped into the canal to swim.

When it was later discovered that Murtala was drowning, at least 20 young men on the field abandoned the football match to rescue him. As they were all sinking, they had to abandon him and go in search of fishermen. By the time they saw one of them called Sunday Ayato, it was too late because Murtala's body could no longer be found.

P.M. News learnt that Ayato and his search party found the dead body of Gidado floating on the river yesterday. His remains were interred by the bank of the canal at about 7.25 pm after his parents had paid N25,000 to the fishermen for rituals.

One of the victim's teammates, who initially was washing his leg in the river, William Ajibade, thanked God he was able to escape. Speaking with our correspondent, Murtala's brother, Qudus Gidado, urged the Lagos State government to ban soccer at the *Argentina* stadium to prevent more deaths there.