

•**Relatives of Dana Air crash victims at LASUTH, Ikeja this morning. PHOTO: IDOWU OGUNLEYE.**



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Suicide: Student Bids Goodbye On Facebook

JAMIU YISA

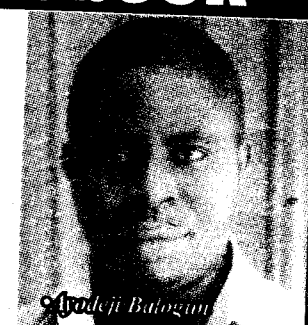
A 27-year old final year student of the National Open University (NOUN) Lagos, Southwest Nigeria, Ayodeji Balogun, has allegedly committed suicide two days after he was caught cheating during a paper in his final examinations.

He was allegedly caught cheating while writing the Business Management examination last Saturday.

Ayodeji, however, made his intention to take his own life known to his friends through a post on his Facebook wall.

The first son in a family of three then went ahead and hanged himself on a mango tree inside an uncompleted building beside his father's compound.

Ayodeji, an ex-student of



CMS Grammar School, Bariga, at about 6:13 p.m. on Monday posted his suicide note on his Facebook wall: "what they said about me is not true in school, but God knows better. Thanks we see at the end, I luv u all."

At 8:04 p.m. that same day,

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Captain Waxtan's Last Flight

The American Pilot Of Dana's Ill-Fated Plane



•The late Captain Waxtan

SIMON ATEBA

Captain Peter Waxtan, the American pilot who flew the ill-fated Dana plane on Sunday, was on his last flight and last day in Nigeria before returning to

his country, friends and former colleagues said.

A former pilot for Miramar-based Spirit Airlines, Waxtan resumed work with Dana Air in March 2012, Oscar Wason, the airline's director of operations said.

In all, Waxtan had flown Dana planes for 30 days and was off duty for 15 days, Pat Squires, a pilot who worked with him for 15 years told Sun Sentinel newspaper in the United States,

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•Exclusive photo of Captain Waxtan while he was being brought out of the crashed Dana plane. PHOTO: OLATUNGBI ERINFOLAMI

USA, China, France, Others Demand Release Of Citizens' Bodies For Burial

KAZEEM UGBODAGA

The United States, China, France and other foreign countries have asked the Lagos State Government to release the bodies of their citizens who died in Sunday's ill-fated Dana plane crash in Lagos, Southwest Nigeria for proper burial.

The Consulate General of the affected countries met with Governor Babatunde Fashola on Tuesday and demanded the release of the bodies.

Among the members of the diplomatic community who were present at the meeting were Consul General of France, Mr Francois Sastowne; Head of Office of High Commission of India, Mr Rani Malik; Consul General of Lebanon, Mr Dina Haddad; Acting Consul General of the United States of America, Mr Karl Cockburn, Consul General China, Liu Xianta. Others are Mr Pontab Tobins of the Indonesian Embassy; Mr Stone Shi of the China Civil Engineering and Construction Company, CCECC and Agos Sutan, a director at ITPC.

Speaking on behalf of the diplomats, the Consul General of China, Liu Xianta said members of the diplomatic corps were very appreciative of the efforts of the State Government on the incident.

He said the missions would want the bodies of their nationals who had been identified after the necessary tests had been carried out among those in the mortuary to be released to them for burial rites in earnest.

Responding, Fashola expressed condolence with them for the unfortunate accident, saying that the meeting was convened to enable him convey condolences on behalf of the government and people of the state and to share with the diplomats the processes by which the foreign missions could identify their nationals who were involved in the mishap.

He stated that the administration would also like to ask the missions what the government could do to assist them at this difficult period.

Marine Cop Drowns In Lagos Lagoon

PAUL IYOGOGIE

A marine policeman whose name was given as Friday Iyesere (Kwekwe) attached to the Marine Police Division, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, fell into the Lagos Lagoon and drowned yesterday.

The incident occurred in the morning at the Marine Police Division.

Details of the incident were still sketchy at the time of this report, but a police source at the division told *P.M. NEWS* that the deceased was a native of Kwale, Delta State.

He was said to have met his untimely death when he attempted to enter one of the operational boats of the force to keep his clothes which he wanted to travel with for the burial of his father who died a few days ago.

The source said Friday had just been given casual leave to travel "and he was trying to enter the operational boat, when he slipped and went under."

His colleagues got the information that he had slipped into the lagoon through a fisherman who came and informed them that someone had fallen inside the water.

It was later discovered it was the deceased.

The policeman on duty at the time of the incident were helpless till a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police, Augustine Eyo, was later called by a police officer.

Eyo later rescued the victim who had sustained injuries on his head and had died.

The corpse of the deceased, according to the source, has been deposited at a hospital in the state.



•Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola SAN (right) condoling with the Consul General of Lebanon, Mr. Dima Haddad (2nd left), his wife, Mrs. Haddad (3rd left), High Commissioner of India and Head of Lagos Office, Rani Malik (left) and the Acting Consul General, United States, Carl Cockburn during a meeting with the Diplomats convened by the Governor on the Dana air plane which crashed on Sunday held at the State House, Ikeja, Lagos, yesterday.

Suicide Student

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he again updated the wall with "why me" before killing himself early Tuesday morning.

The sad incident which occurred at the victim's family's Oluwaga residence at the Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area of the state, has since thrown the entire community into confusion and mourning.

The deceased, *P.M. NEWS* reliably gathered, tricked his mother into going for a vigil in their church and also ensured that his aged father was fast asleep before committing the dastardly act.

His father, Pa Balogun, while speaking on the sad development, said that since he noticed his son's queer behaviour few days ago, he had made several efforts to ensure that the introvert disclosed what was bothering him to no avail.

"He told me he was not feeling fine and I tried my best possible afterwards to know what was troubling him but he won't say a word. I asked if he would like to see the doctor and he said no."

"He even went behind my back to stop the person I asked to go and bring a nurse to treat him."

"When it was around 8 p.m. on that Monday, he was the one that asked his mother if she was not going for vigil before she prepared herself and left for church."

"We were together outside the house till 9 p.m. before we decided to go in and sleep and I was monitoring his movements all through the night."

"Twice I caught him trying to sneak out of the house at odd hours and I stopped him. On the two occasions, he told me he wanted to ease himself and I ensured that he returned to the house."

"He was able to perpetrated the devilish act because I slept off when the rain started."

"I woke around 2am and I couldn't find him where he was sleeping. I searched everywhere but still couldn't find him and I rushed outside to look for him within the premises."

"Lo and behold, I saw my son's lifeless body dangling on the mango tree where he hanged himself and I shouted for help."

"In the morning, we reported the matter at the Ayobo Police Station and they came to take his photographs and cut the rope he used to hang himself."

"I have since put the incident behind me because that was how he chose to live his own life," he said.

16 Boko Haram Men Killed

Nigerian soldiers have killed at least 16 militants, the army said Wednesday, after gunfire and blasts rocked an area of the country's north-east where Islamists were believed to be hiding.

"It's confirmed," Colonel Victor Ebhaleme told AFP when asked about reports of 16 Boko Haram members being killed in the city of Maiduguri. "They came to attack part of the city," he said, but declined to provide details.

His friends who spoke with *P.M. NEWS* on condition of anonymity while consoling his parents at their residence, said that the deceased did not tell them that he was caught cheating during the examination. They told our correspondent that they got wind of it after the news had spread all over the campus that he had committed suicide.

"When we got the news, we gather ourselves and vowed to cause commotion in the school premises. We first of all approached the lecturer that was said to have caught him cheating in the exam and the man was crying as he was narrating what transpired between them on the said day to us."

"He told us that what happened between them did not warrant him taking his life in the most cruel manner. He even told us that he was not even taking the issue with utmost seriousness."

"The lecturer told us he caught him red handed with the 'expo' in his wallet and he seized it from him. He told us further that Ayo came back afterwards and wrestle the stuff from him and he became furious and said he will take the issue up with him."

"Throughout that day in school, he did not tell us anything of such happened, even though we noticed that he was not feeling his usual self. He was the type that did share his problem with his friends. We have stayed together for four years on campus, yet we don't know much about him because he likes keeping to himself despite being jovial and friendly," one of his colleagues in school told *P.M. NEWS*.

ICAN Loses Manager, 5 Members

EROMOSELE EBHOMELE

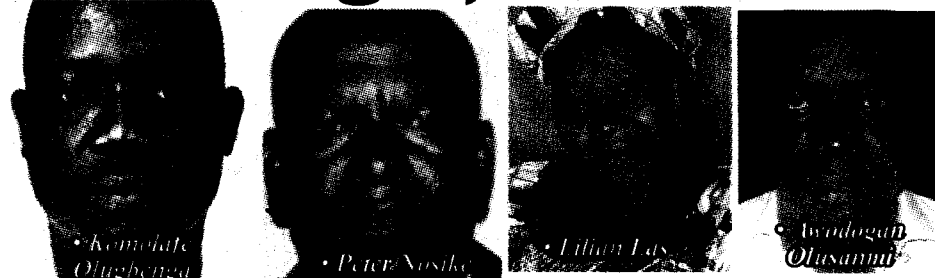
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has disclosed that five of its members, including a manager with the institute, were involved in the plane crash which occurred at the Iju-Ishaga area of Lagos on Sunday.

The name of the member of the institute's management was given as Mrs. and according to ICAN, she was a Senior Manager at the ICAN Abuja Liaison office of the institute.

The professional body which described the crash of the aircraft belonging to Dana Air as well as the loss of its members as unfortunate, also gave the names of the other five victims as Mr. Awodogan Olusanmi with membership number 25222, Mr. Komolafe Olugbenga with membership number 7388, Mrs. Ogechi Onyeagocha with membership number 6601, Mr. Peter Anosike with membership number 10880, and Mr. Yusuf Ibrahim with membership number 4179.

On that fateful Sunday, Mrs. Las was on her way to Lagos for the institute's monthly management meeting which was to hold Monday morning. Since the confirmation of her demise, the Institute has been grief stricken, with most of the staff expressing astonishment over the incident.

President of the Institute, Mr.



Doyin Owolabi, who had been mourning the loss of the six members of the institute since the incident, also lamented the cruel fate that befell the gentle and hard-working Lilian.

"It is indeed painful; I still remember her usual smiles as she attended to official duties without complaining."

"I remember her broad smiles of congratulations at my investiture on Wednesday. Oh death! Where is your sting?"

He lamented that the incident was painful, "but because we are children of the living God, it (death) has no dominion over us. It is a debt to be paid by all, but as humans, we pray for old age."

"Lilian was a child of God, so she's not dead, but rests with the Lord, where we shall all meet to part no more. May God continue to shine His Light on her gentle soul and the souls of all the other departed faithful."

Reacting to the news, a Council member of the institute, Mrs. Ngozi Monica Okonkwo,

Captain

Continued From Pg.1

adding that he was to return on Sunday (3 June), the same day the Dana flight 992 crashed in Lagos, southwest Nigeria, killing 152 people on board and at least 10 others on the ground.

Squires added that Waxtan was eager to return to the US and spend time with Lisa, his fiancée. The 55-year old pilot was to have arrived his Fort Lauderdale home on Wednesday (today), he said.

The American pilot worked at Spirit from 1997 to 2009 before his contract and that of Squires, his colleague, were terminated during union negotiations with the airline.

"It was a political thing," Squires said, which occurred during union negotiations with the airline. Both men then flew for Falcon Air Express, a Miami-based charter service.

Last year they both departed Falcon. Waxtan later joined Dana Air, where he worked 30 days on and 15 off, Squires said.

Lagos Doctors Resume

KAZEEM UGBODAGA & YISA JAMIU

Lagos State public hospitals, Lagos, Southwest Nigeria have come alive again after a month of total paralysis as doctors resumed work.

In several hospitals visited in the Lagos metropolis, thousands of jubilant patients were seen waiting for doctors to attend to them.

At the Igando General Hospital, the doctors have fully resumed for work while lots of patients thronged the hospitals to be attended to.

The car park was filled with cars, an indication that activities have fully picked up at the hospital after a month of drabness.

At the Ifako-Ijaiye General Hospital, *P.M. NEWS* gathered that the doctors have resumed fully while the number of patients have increased.

The same goes for the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, as the doctors have resumed.

Our reporter said that many patients did not visit the hospital but that some patients were seen being attended to.

More patients have also gone to the General Hospital, Lagos to be attended to as doctors have fully resumed work.

The same goes for the Island Maternity as activities have picked up. Doctors were on ground to attend to patients.

At Surulere General Hospital, doctors were seen attending

to patients while more patients had also visited to hospital to be attended to.

The Orile-Agege General Hospital bubble with life after a long time as doctors began attending to patients very early in the morning today.

There was jubilation as patients saw the doctors coming into the hospital to attend to them.

Large crowd of patients had besieged the hospital very early in the day.

Patients who spoke with *P.M. NEWS* said they were overjoyed that the feud between the government and the doctors had at last come to an end.

Two patients, Eteredhe Roland and Rachael Osarogiagba said they were overjoyed that the doctors had resumed as they were sure that they would soon be attended to.

Another patient, Oladimeji Oluwaseun, also expressed happiness over the resumption to work by the doctors.

According to Lateef Olatiwo, it was good that the old doctors had resumed, saying that the new ones employed by the government lacked the needed experience. Christiana Obi said there were now more doctors to attend to the patients and to save more lives.

The doctors, under the aegis of Medical Guild called off their strike yesterday after the state government recalled 788 of them sacked earlier for partaking in a warning strike.

"Sunday was supposed to be his last day in the rotation in Nigeria," he said.

Waxtan lived with Lisa, his fiancée, who through a friend declined to give her last name. "He spent as much time as he could get with her," Squires said.

"It's just so devastating," said a Coral Springs flight attendant who knew Waxtan. "He was a good guy, he was one of my favorites," Springs told Sun Sentinel newspaper.

Flight 992 was few kilometers on its final approach to the Lagos airport when Waxtan declared an emergency. Witnesses said it appeared the plane was having engine trouble, Wason said.

The jetliner crashed into a two-storey railway building, hitting the ground tail first and exploding in flames.

Squires described his friend as a "consummate professional" at flying. "He was the best MD-80 captain I've ever seen," said Squires, formerly of Broward County and now of Phoenix.

Squires said crash photos showing Flight 992 on the ground with its nose up indicates Waxtan was trying to keep it in the air right until the end.

"He did everything he could to save that aircraft," Squires said. "In the end, if he knew it was going down, he did everything he could to minimize the amount of damage on the ground." "If nothing else, his efforts were heroic."

Three other friends, flight attendants or other workers at Spirit Airlines, described Waxtan as a "genuine nice guy" who was quick with a smile or a joke. They asked that their names not be used, however, because officials at Spirit have prohibited employees from speaking about their lost friend.

Squires said Waxtan was a former Army helicopter pilot who enjoyed hiking. About three weeks ago, the two men spoke. "He was very happy, he kept telling me, 'We need captains, come on over,'" Squires recalled.

"I'm still in shock," said the friend, his voice breaking. "God, I'm going to miss him," the Sun Sentinel reported.

At the Dana Air Accident Information Centre at the Murtala Muhammed Airport 2, very few relatives showed up to identify their loved ones and inside the terminal building, there were only few passengers.

Dana passengers scurried to their airline's counter for refund. Efforts to get the names of other members of Dana crew proved abortive as their colleagues refused to talk, to say what they remember about their departed colleagues.

described Lilian as an amiable human being one could not resist.

She said nobody would have imagined she would go so soon as she was full of life few days ago when she came to Lagos for the investiture ceremony of the 48th ICAN President last Wednesday.

"Lilian was very amiable, unassuming, ever-cheerful. She was a dear friend. May her soul rest in perfect peace," she stated.

The Registrar/Chief Executive of ICAN, Mr. Olutoyin Adepat, who spoke about the other five members, said the news of their involvement was most distressing to everybody.

"The news came to all of us as a shock, but the incident was beyond our control."

"While we pray to God for the repose of the souls of those involved in the crash, we sympathise with their families and all Nigerians, also praying that God will grant them the fortitude to bear this great loss and the consequential pain, stem the tide

of calamities and restore peace to our beloved land," he said.

On his part, the Deputy Registrar (Technical) of the institute, Mr. Abel Asein, did not only lament Lilian's untimely passage but also described the accident that killed her as avoidable.

He said: "This 'flight into death' is sad, painful, yet avoidable."

He said he was pained at the incident which took the life of the management staff, adding that she was "harmless, easy going and always full of smiles, even in challenging times."

"You were always willing, at short notice, to take correspondences to various government departments with impressive feedback. Oh! I say Lilian, soldier of Christ, we cannot mourn you enough. Please, rest in peace in your new abode with the saints". Mr. Asein condemned how disastrous situations are handled in the country and prayed for God's intervention in Nigeria's affairs.