

Lifeline

School owner in trouble over mysterious death of 3-year-old

FROM TUNDE RAHEEM AKURE

The proprietress of a kindergarten in Oba-ile, a suburb of Akure, the Ondo State capital, is now in trouble following the death of a three-year-old kid, Feranmi Famuyide, in her custody

The parents of the kid, Mr. and Mrs. Famuyide, said they suspected foul play in the death of their child, adding that the proprietress could not give a convincing explanation on what led to the sudden death of the little girl that was brought to school in the morning hale and hearty.

The parents' argument was that the kid did not develop any sign of sickness before she was brought to school in the morning, adding that when the school authorities noticed that she was feeling uncomfortable, they should have called to inform her mother before taking her to the hospital for treatment.

They said they were shocked when the news of her death was broken to them through the proprietress of the crèche in the evening

after they had made concerted efforts to reach out to her to find out what was delaying the kid in the school over three hours after she should have been brought home.

The mother of the girl, Chichi Famuyide, lamented how the death of her daughter was shrouded in secrecy, insisting that the proprietor kept it away from her knowledge. The body of her child was even dumped in the morgue without the consent or knowledge of the parents, she said.

"The proprietress didn't tell me anything, since the morning when I went to drop my daughter. Even if anything was wrong with her, the proprietress was supposed to have called me. She has my phone number but she didn't call me and throughout when she was taking my kid to the hospital and later to the mortuary, she did not call to inform me.

"I was just home expecting my kid to be returned. In fact, I had prepared her meal and I was already getting worried when it was past 4 pm and I didn't see her. I tried to call the proprietor, but she did not pick her call.

"It was later in the evening when I was

• Feranmi

obviously confused and sensing something was wrong that the proprietor came in the company of others to break the news of my daughter's death to me.

"It was incredible at first that my daughter died and I was told that her body had already been deposited at the mortuary."

While protesting the circumstances surrounding the death of his daughter, father of the deceased, Famuyide said it was unfortunate that the proprietor hid the situation of the daughter until she was deposited at the mortuary.

He explained his grievances, stressing that the late Feranmi was not ill and didn't have any history of any ailment that could have resulted to sudden death.

"My kid is not the sick type. She was not sick. She was very hale and healthy. I don't understand why something like that could have happened just like that. There was no sign of ailment. In fact, she didn't have headache. She ate before leaving home and her mother also packed her lunch for her.



When her mother didn't see her on time, we all became worried. We were calling the proprietor on the phone and we never knew that our kid was already in the mortuary," Famuyide said.

However, the proprietress, who simply identified herself as Sade, said she was confused when Feranmi fell down after taking her lunch and was no longer breathing.

She said she was confused when the problem started and decided to take the child to the hospital. She said the girl was pronounced dead as soon as they got to the hospital, and they asked her to drop her remains in the morgue.

Sade said she was confused and too scared to break the news of the death to the parents of Feranmi. The parents later reported the incident to the police.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer in Ondo State, Wole Ogodu said the proprietress had been picked up by the police, adding that investigation was already ongoing.