



Nigerian boxers

Tunde Sanni in Ibadan

A tragic incident was recorded at the boxing gym of the Oyo State Sports Council at the weekend when a boxer-in-training identified simply as **Friday Obasi, 28, dropped dead** while sparring with a fellow boxer at the premises of Lekan Salami Sports Complex.

Obasi reportedly fell after receiving a punch from his pairing partner and hit his head on the concrete floor while they were training. He was said not to have shown any sign of stress or fatigue prior to the training session.

THISDAY checks revealed that there was no immediate medical help for the late boxer as the clinic inside the stadium complex was yet to resume operations as at 11am when the tragic incident occurred.

Obasi gave up the ghost few minutes later before he could reach **Adeoyo State Hospital located at Ring-Road part of the Oyo State capital**, where his corpse was subsequently deposited in a mortuary.

The General Manager of Oyo State Sports Council, Folake Oyelakin, who confirmed the tragic incident said the management would visit the deceased boxer's family to commiserate with them and look for ways how to help give the late athlete a befitting burial.

The Chairman of Oyo State Boxing Association, Akintunde Opaleye expressed his shock over the incident and prayed for the repose of the soul of the late boxer.

He was particularly shocked on death of the boxer said to be a promising heavy weight boxer.

The boxing association chief however promised taking measure in ensuring a good and safer condition of environment for their boxers, saying athletes' welfare is of paramount interest on the programmes of the association.

Opaleye added that the association will delegate people to meet with his family and fashion out how to give him a nice burial while praying God to give his family fortitude to bear the loss.

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