

Two brothers drown in well

By Sowoolu-Coates Ololade

LAGOS—AGONY and pain are words that aptly described the present emotional state of Mr. and Mrs. Akanbi of No.2, Mosafejo road, Amukoko, Lagos who, Thursday last week, lost two young men in a rather uncanny way. The weight of the tragedy was still written all over their faces when *City scope* visited and this made discussions practically impossible. Concerted attempts at broaching over the issue were futile as many of the sympathisers who thronged to the family house advised that more time be given to enable the bereaved couple brace up to the reality that their beloved sons were no more.

However, some neighbours who witnessed the heart rending death of the young men narrated to *City scope* the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

On the fateful day, members of the family were said to be preparing to watch a match at about 7p.m when Isah, the younger of the two brothers made for a shallow well right in their compound, where they usually store petrol with which they run their generator, so as to fill the generator for the night.

Eyewitnesses said Isah, who had just completed his apprenticeship on a trade, had grabbed the gallon containing the petrol from the well, before it slipped out of his hand thereby causing the flammable liquid to spill which resulted in the release of unpleasant fumes and gas which started choking him. Neighbours soon began to gather, although none was bold enough to go into the well until Ahmed the elder brother arrived.

Ahmed who lives separately with his own family had come that evening with a freezer he had just purchased for his father. On seeing the crowd and confusion, Ahmed dashed into the well to rescue his brother, only to be choked by the same fumes that affected his brother.

So much panic and anxiety filled the air as nobody dared go into the well until some 'mallams' came around and rescued the dying young men, after which they were rushed to a nearby hospital for possible treatment, where they both died.

The mother of the victims, Mrs Akanbi who managed to utter some words about the ugly incident in Yoruba dialect while shedding tears simply said; "I am a muslim, a true muslim and I believe the Almighty's will is final. I believe it's my sons' fate. God has written it like that and no one can question him. Even, I can sleep today and not wake up tomorrow. So, he is the Almighty and he does as he wills. I have accepted his will and I am not interested in conducting any investigation".

However, the police are still investigating the case.