

7-yr-old pupil drowns, washing hand after meal

By Monsuru
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LAGOS—TRAGEDY struck last Wednesday afternoon at Okokomaiko in Iba Local Council Development Area, LCDA, of Lagos State as a seven-year-old pupil drowned in a well beside his school, Aganju Aka Primary School II, on Richard Agbawi Street, Kemberi Town.

When *Vanguard* visited the school, the pupil, identified as Pascal, was one of the physically-challenged pupils in the primary school; the first child of his family.

Sources said the incident, which occurred at about 12.30p.m. on June 17, led to pandemonium, which halted the school activities.

It was learned that the late Pascal left his classroom a few minutes past 12p.m., to wash

his hands at the entrance of the class taking his launch.

Sources said on getting to the spot, Pascal realised that the bucket was empty and left the spot for the school well, where he could get water, about 50 metres away from the classroom.

Vanguard learned that on getting to the well, he could not fetch water due to the well's depth and was unable to get any assistance.

On realising this, it was learned that the deceased left the school premises through a breach in the school fence, entered one of the buildings beside the school and got drowned, trying to get water from the well.

One of the teachers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the incident would have been averted if it did not coincide with the break

time of the older pupils.

"But it was the comment from Pascal's mother, who arrived at about 1:30p.m. that gave the search party clue as to where he deceased could be," she added.

One of the pupils, who identified herself as Yetunde, said the search party began to drain the well at about 3p.m. after obtaining permit from Okokomaiko Police Station, Okoko, and the deceased was recovered at about 6p.m.

Pascal's father, Mr. Chucks, who spoke to *Vanguard*, said: "It pains me. If I had known, I would not have transferred him to this school.

"He was attending a private school, but I realised that the school did not have the facility to effectively teach him, considering his condition.

"However, I believe that his death has been destined."