

Controversy trails death of teacher over alleged rape of 4-year-old

By Ebere Aham

LAGOS—CONTRIVERSY is currently trailing the death of a female teacher at First Baptist Nursery and Primary School, Ipaja, Lagos, who reportedly jumped from a storey building in her bid to escape from a mob that accused her of negligence in the rape of her four-year-old pupil.

While the school claimed that the deceased, identified as Mrs Folashade Adesomu, was beaten to death by the mob after the fall, her widower said she died a few days after the fall.

The mob, it was gathered, stormed the school to attack one of its members of staff who allegedly raped a four-year-old pupil two weeks ago.

Report had it that the bubble burst after the four-year-old raped kindergarten returned home that fateful day, only for her grandmother to discover that she was bleeding from her private part. On enquiry, the little girl was said to have complained of severe pains in her private part when she wanted to urinate, consequent upon which she was rushed to the hospital.

Hospital report

Hospital report, according to her grandmother, simply identified as Mrs. Ajose, showed that the little girl's hymen had been broken. To the surprise of all, the girl reportedly alleged that the atrocity was committed by the school's bus driver, Mr. Yemi Adeshina.

Ajose was said to have rushed to the school on seeing the school's proprietor, one Rev. Michael Abodurin, it was learned that she was shunned as the management of the school denied its member of staff culpability.

Angered by the management's reaction, Ajose reportedly left the school in tears. She was said to have narrated her grand child's ordeal to some residents, who mobilised and stormed the school, vandalising its property.

One of the invaders was said to have identified one of the female teachers as the victim's teacher. In her bid to avoid being lynched, the teacher, Mrs Folashade Adesomu, reportedly ran into the toilet from where she jumped through the window. The 53-year-old teacher was said to have died a week after the fall, due to

shock and suspected internal bleeding.

But the school insisted she was lynched by the mob in the school premises.

When *Vanguard* visited the school owned by First Baptist Church yesterday, the church's administrator, who refused to disclose his identity, simply stated that the case was in court, directing this reporter to go to the court for any explanation or detail on the matter.

Vanguard also paid a visit to the widower's abode at Ipaja, where he affirmed that his wife died some days after the rape case.

How my wife died —Widower

He said: "My wife died on September 24, 2015. She said that on that fateful day, people stormed the school and started shouting and destroying things. Immediately, someone pointed at her and said that she was the teacher to the girl in question. She began to run for her life and

hid in the toilet. She said that she jumped through a window as other teachers ran to hide. I took her to the hospital after complaining of pains in her hands and legs.

"On September 24, she brought people who she wanted to teach how to operate her large cooking stove so that they can roast the ram for the just celebrated *sallah*.

"That same day she told me to look her in the eyes and hold her hands, saying her body was paining her inside. That was how she died. She was buried same day according to Islamic rites. I missed her so much."

On her part, grandmother of the four-year-old girl who expressed displeasure over the way the school handled the alleged rape, also accused it of trying to bury the matter.

"When I went to the school, the management denied the allegation.. They did not even bother to ask how my grandchild was faring in the hospital. Who did she offend to have warranted being molested by an adult male?"

"She pointed at the driver when the Police invited every member

of staff during interrogation I do not even know the driver because I take my baby to school myself. This girl we are talking about is in Nursery Two and very small and fragile. When we go to church, I always carry her because she is so small. She always complains of tiredness. That is a girl a man put under a desk and raped. From all indications, this may not be his first time of engaging in such act. It is only God that will save us. Is it a crime to send your child to school? The driver does not even feel remorseful. He is not even begging for forgiveness.

"The fateful day when I went to pick her in school, she was just so dull. When I discovered her blood stained pant, I asked her what happened to her. She was so quiet and kept on repeating, 'he said I should not tell anybody.' After much coercion, she said 'one man put something from his body in my *bombom* and covered my eyes and mouth.' When I asked her who, she said it was Uncle Yemi.

"Instead of focusing on the case the school is saying the mob killed its teacher right in the school premises. That is a big lie."



KEROSENE FOR THE MASSES: Conoil filling station at Alapere, Ketu, Lagos, selling kerosine to the public at N50 per litre. Photo: Kolawole Alli.

Man arraigned for allegedly stabbing friend t

By Onozure Dania, Sodiq Alausa & Opeyemi Lepe

LAGOS—THE Police yesterday, charged a 21-year-old man, Azeez Adejumobi, before an Ebute-Metta Chief Magistrate's Court sitting at Oyingbo for allegedly stabbing his friend, Saheed Ibitoye, to death.

It was gathered that the defendant was alleged to have stabbed the deceased on his left hand after an argument ensued between them.

Adejumobi, who resides at 4, Ajegunle Street, Onipanu, Ilupeju, is facing a count charge of murder.

The Prosecutor, Inspector

Gbemileke Agoi, told the court that the defendant allegedly committed the offence on September 24 at 9p.m., along Abidogun Street, at Onipanu in Ilupeju area of Lagos.

According to Agoi, the defendant got into a heated argument with the deceased in the process, the deceased picked up a cutlass b