

the driver saw the speed breaker, he applied the brake, forcing his car to

out unhurt.

Boy, 12, drowns in Lagos river

By Evelyn Usman

A 12 year-old boy, Friday Ezekiel, alleged to have been lured by his mates to a river in Majidun area of Lagos, has drowned.

The deceased, a Junior Secondary School 1 student of Ayobirin Secondary School, as gathered, left his widowed mother's home, Monday evening in company of four of his friends.

There were different accounts on how he drowned in the river. A version of the account had it that he had an altercation with one of his friends, who allegedly pushed him into the river in the process.

Another account had it that he

was cajoled into joining his mates to swim in the river, unfortunately, his legs, as gathered, got stuck in the mud, as he could not swim.

Rather than assist him, his mates were said to have left him to his fate and returned to their respective homes. One of them was said to have taken Ezekiel's slippers home.

Meanwhile, back home, his apprehensive mother had raised the alarm over his absence. A search party conducted round the community, yielded no luck, before a member of the community informed them that they saw a drowned person in the river.

A relative of the deceased, who simply gave her name as Kemi, said: "We rushed to the river and found his body there. We begged some local divers to help us bring it out but they demanded N40,000 which mama Friday could not afford. Some members of the community contributed N20,000 and handed over to the people before they brought out the body.

None of the boys opened up until some people said they saw them going towards the river.

Vanguard gathered that the late Friday was buried, yesterday, after some rituals were performed.

When contacted, Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Chike Oti, said he was not aware of the incident.

s suicide in A-Ibom

community, Chief Sunday Thomas Mbaba, expressed grief over the tragedy, describing it as "barbaric and shocking."

He said: "Early this morning (Monday) a youth from this community, Philip, came to my compound to inform me of the tragedy, so I immediately went to the police station to inform the DPO."

A native of the village, who did not want his name mentioned, told newsmen that the deceased had just packed into his uncompleted building two weeks ago, adding that it was sad that the deceased died leaving his poor aged mother and relatives.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Odiko Macdon, said he was not aware of the incident as it has not yet been reported to state Police headquarters.