



# Lagos community thrown into confusion as 8 children die inside vehicle

By Esther Onyegbula

**L**AGOS—THE residents of Adelayo Street in Jah-Michael community, Olorunda area of Lagos State, have been thrown into confusion following the discovery of the lifeless body of eight children inside a Honda Pilot jeep with registration number AAA157BD parked inside a fenced house. The lifeless body of the children aged between four to nine years old, were discovered about 5p.m., on Saturday evening when Saliat Kazeem, who wanted to feed her granddaughter raised the alarm that the children were trapped inside the vehicle.

Saliat Kazeem, the owner of the building where the incident happened was asleep when the children, including her granddaughter entered and got trapped inside the vehicle and died of suffocation.

When Vanguard got to the scene, yesterday, relatives of family of the victims were at the scene, they opened the gate to inspect the compound and held meetings, insinuating that there was more than met the eyes.

In the compound, shattered windscreen from the vehicle littered the scene.

Glasses from the window of building which was destroyed by irate residents were also scattered on the ground.

Vanguard learned that the eight children involved are from four different families.

A family has three children, another family has two, another has two while Saliat Kazeem has one (granddaughter). The names of the children were given as Zainab, Jayab, Farida, Mamod, Yakubu, Wahab, Aisha and Saliat Kazeem's granddaughter.

According to Azeze, it was actually when the owner of the building, Saliat Kazeem woke up that she discovered the children, including her granddaughter whom she wanted to feed were inside the vehicle.

"When I heard of the incident, I rushed there like other residents, we found that some of the children were still alive, they were still breathing, we were telling them to rush them to the hospital, but they were wasting time, they didn't do anything till it was late. By the time they eventually stated going to the hospital, the grand child of Saliat Kazeem died on the way.

"Yesterday (Saturday) was like war as young men in the community wanted to set the house ablaze. Relatives of the affected families attacked people who were passing by."

According to a community leader, who spoke to Vanguard on the condition of anonymity, said, "The aggrieved youths almost lynched Saliat Kazeem, the owner of the vehicle and building but for

the police, who intervened and sealed the building."

Yet to understand what was happening, a little boy who identified himself as AbdulKareem, said his two siblings, Aisha and Farida were among the children who died inside the vehicle.

He said: "My two siblings were among the children who suffocated in the vehicle. Foamy substances were coming out of their mouths."

Lamenting, another resident, Adetayo Ojo, said: "The gate is hardly open, anytime we pass through this street, the gate is always locked. So, I wonder what happened that it was opened and eight children went there to play."

Confirming the incident, the spokesperson Lagos state police command, Adekunle Ajisebutu, said: "Eight children were said to have

mistakenly locked themselves in an abandoned car while playing. Their bodies have been recovered and deposited at the Badagry General Hospital's morgue for autopsy, so as to determine the actual cause of death. Notwithstanding the report made to the Police, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hakeem Odumosu, has ordered a thorough and speedy investigation into the circumstances surrounding their death.

"The CP also commiserates with the families of the victims."



A typical Lagosians road crying for government's attention.

## 9 dead, others injured in Bayelsa road accident

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA — IT was a black Saturday in Bayelsa State as no fewer than nine persons were killed in a tragic auto crash along the Gloryland Drive, in the outskirts of Yenagoa, the state capital while several others sustained various degrees of injuries.

Vanguard learned that the accident, involving a Toyota Hiace bus with Reg No. AKL 652 YP and a Toyota Forerunner SUV with Reg No. KMK 923 AA, occurred about 5p.m., along the busy gateway road to the state capital.

It was further learned that the ill-fated vehicles were in a convoy, conveying guests back to Sagbama town after attending a wedding ceremony in Yenagoa, when tragedy struck.

A top female politician from Ogbia LGA, was identified among victims

of the accident. This, however, could not be immediately confirmed.

Confirming the development, the police public relations officer, Mr. Asinin Butswat said, the Command had commenced investigation into the fatal car accident that killed nine persons and injured several others.

According to him, "Sketch marks of the scene were taken, the vehicles involved in the accident were also evacuated to the Igbogbe Division for further inspection.

"The corpses of the victims were deposited at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri, while the injured passengers are responding to treatment at the same facility."

Also, Chairman of Sagbama LGA, Embeleakpo Alale, in a statement expressed sadness over the incident.

He said he was deeply saddened by

the loss of lives and that they were monitoring the progress of survivors admitted in the hospital and would give whatever support they could.

## Police arrest sergeant suspected of killing driver in Osogbo

**O**SOGBO—THE Osun State Police Command, yesterday said it has arrested a Police Sergeant suspected of shooting to death a driver at Kobogbogboe/Ota-efun Area of Osogbo on Friday.

In a statement by the command's Spokesperson, Yemisi Opalola, the suspect would be arraigned in court after completion of police orderly room trial.