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Father Of Late NMS Student Demands N1m Compensation

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Alhaji Muhammad Ali Dan'azumi, the father of Hamza Muhammad Dan'azumi, a student of the Nigerian Military School (NMS) Zaria who died last year, has taken the Nigerian Army to court, demanding N1 million as compensation over his son's death.

Dan'azumi Jr. was reported to have lost his life at the NMS, and his corpse was found by the river side. Daily Trust gathered that the report of the autopsy conducted at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Shika, Zaria signed by Dr. M.S. Shehu, a consultant pathologist, revealed asphyxia and choking as the cause of Hamza's death.

Court documents obtained by Daily Trust yesterday showed that the decision of Alhaji Muhammed to take legal action followed exchange of correspondences between his solicitors and the Nigerian Army. The writ of summons reads in part: "The plaintiff's late son was enrolled in NMS, Zaria, in 2010. The plaintiff received a disturbing phone call from his late son that his life was being threatened by one Lieutenant Odoh and he immediately proceeded to the NMS where the plaintiff was assured that his late son was safe, though he was to remain in the school's guardroom until vacation. When the plaintiff went to pick up his son when the school vacated, he was informed that his son was missing but was later found dead at Zaria water works. The plaintiff claims a declaration that his son's death was as a result of the defendants' failure to discharge their duty of safeguarding his life, an order directing the defendants to jointly and severally pay the sum of N500m to the plaintiff as damages and an order awarding N500m to the plaintiff as exemplary damages."

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