

# Police probe death of two siblings in Rivers flood

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Rivers PPRO, Iringe-Koko. Photo: File

By Dennis Naku

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The Rivers State Police Command has begun a probe into the death of two teenagers of the same parents in a flood following a downpour in Eligbolo community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state on Sunday.

While speaking with our correspondent on Monday, the spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, saying an investigation was ongoing, even as she condoled with the boys' family.

She said, "Yes, I'm aware, because of the floods. We lost two children. I feel for the mother losing two children in one house. It is very pathetic. We condole with the family, and we (police) are investigating the incident anyway."

The boys, Miracle Peters and Emma Peters, aged 16 and 17 years respectively, drowned while trying to assist someone trapped in the flood.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that the duo successfully helped the person to safety, but on their way back, Emma's footwear slipped off, and as they tried to retrieve it, the strong current swept them away.

Their mother, Onyinyechi Peters, who is still reeling from the shock, narrated the incident to newsmen in Port Harcourt on Monday.

Mrs Peters said she had returned home to find out the children were not in the house.

She stated, "I came back and I asked where they were. One of my neighbours responded that someone had called for them to come and help them. So, on their way, the neighbour joined them and helped the person.

"The person was crossing into their house. So, they finished helping the person, but on their way back, they said the slippers of my son were removed, and he fell down. They tried to pick one of the slippers, but people were telling them to leave it; however, he kept trying to collect it with his brother.

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"So, there was no way. The water now carried two of them," the distraught woman stated, even as she said her neighbours saw the boys struggling but couldn't save them.

According to her, "The other boy who was with them (Miracle and Emma) came back and told his mother what happened. The mother said she saw them when they were inside the water (floods), but that they thought they were playing and didn't do anything. They didn't care.

"Before the water carried my son and his brother, they were shouting for help, and one man said he was inside his room when he heard a sound, but he couldn't come out to help."

While fighting back tears, the woman said, "Since then, I have not seen them (the teenage boys)."

Meanwhile, some residents in the area have blamed the tragedy on an overflowing canal along the G.U. Ake Road in Obio/Akpor LGA, which they said has caused constant flooding in the area, and called on the state government for assistance.

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A female resident, called Cynthia, said, “Yesterday (Sunday), I went to church and as I was coming back, I saw that everything was covered with flood. Everything inside my house was tumbled. We slept outside, and till now, the water is still like that.”

She continued, “I have been bailing the water since morning. The water is from the canal. When it is filled, the water will react. Even yesterday, two lives were lost. Let the government come to our aid by deepening the canal so that the water can flow well,” she pleaded.

Meanwhile, the manager of a guest house in the area, simply identified as Augustina, also said all the rooms in the facility were ravaged by the floods, which also damaged many items.

“I had never experienced this type of flood before in my life. Everything inside the hotel, both speakers, fridge, and generator, have been soaked in water. The government should come and help us, and let them see how they do something in the canal to flow well.”