

Two suspected poly students drown in Imo river

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| By Uche Okere

Two young men suspected to be students of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, have drowned in the Otammiri River in Owerri, the Imo State capital.

The incident was said to have occurred on Saturday when the victims, alongside some friends, went swimming in the river.

An eyewitness told *PUNCH Metro* that the group of young men had gone to the river to swim and take photographs.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confided in our correspondent that a local resident had warned them against swimming, particularly as it was getting late, but they allegedly ignored the advice.

According to the source, the victims later swam into the deeper part of the river, lost their footing and drowned.

The President of the Student Union Government of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Destiny Nwosu, confirmed that two persons drowned in the river, but said it had not been established whether they were students of the institution.

“Yes, I heard that two people drowned at the Otammiri River, but up until now, we have not confirmed that they were students of our school,” Nwosu said.

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“For now, I cannot confirm whether they were Nekede Federal Polytechnic students or from other institutions in the state, or even if they were students at all.”

Similarly, the institution’s Public Relations Officer, Dr Ike Ibe, said the school management was not aware of the incident.

“The school management is not aware of such an incident,” he said.

Also reacting, the President of the National Association of Imo State Students, Federal Polytechnic Nekede chapter, Daniel Promise, said he became aware of the incident through a video circulating on social media.

“I saw the video on social media, but up till now, we have not confirmed that they were students of our school. No coursemate or anyone has confirmed that the victims were our students,” he said.

However, sources claimed that one of the victims was identified as a National Diploma I Computer Science student, Chukwudi Okwuchukwu, while the second victim, identified simply as Igwilo, was reportedly a friend to one of the four people who went swimming.

The sources added that the bodies of the victims had been recovered and deposited in a morgue.