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Flood wreaks havoc in Calabar

TONY ITA ETIM, Calabar

TRAGEDY struck weekend in Calabar, Cross Rivers State when a two-year old child got drowned during a downpour that wreaked havoc in the state.

The rain did not also spare the governor's office, State House of Assembly complex and Catholic Archbishop of Calabar's residence as their perimeter fences were destroyed.

Master Anaikorishor Ogbohor was found drowned in front of their 15 last Iso Oqua residence, Calabar Saturday afternoon after a torrential rain that started early that morning subsided..

The father of the late child, Mr. Thomas Ogbohor, a retired naval officer who was away to Port Harcourt Rivers State told *Daily Champion* that flood from the rain had swept through their bedroom and his younger sister was battling to save some property when the child who was in the sitting room strayed outside.

Ogbohor said his three elder sons, and siblings of the deceased were behind the house trying to assist in pushing some cars that were submerged by the flood and did not know when their brother fell into the flood.

He told our correspondent that if not for the perimeter fence separating the premises and the drainage on the other side the child's corpse's would have been carried away by the rampaging flood.

The flood rendered many residents of the city homeless and destroyed property worth millions of naira.

Among the victims of the flood included the Catholic Archbishop of Calabar, His Grace Most Rev Joseph Ukpo whom the perimeter fence of his residence as household property was destroyed.

The flood did no spare the governor's office as part of its perimeter fence was pulled down and about 50 vehicles

that were parked there were submerged by flood.

The Cross River State House of Assembly lost part of its perimeter fence to the flood while residents of Nyong

Edem, Manye Avenue, State Housing Estate, among others are still counting their losses while others have no way to sleep.

The State Governor Senator Liyel Imoke, who visited the family of the late child and some of the flood ravaged areas, announced that the state government has worked out modalities to tackle the perennial flooding in part of Calabar Metropolis during rainfall.

Imoke disclosed that the drainage network in Calabar would be redesigned to accommodate heavy volume of flow during raining seasons.

The governor added that gutters would be widened while the canalization of flowing water would be strengthened to ensure undisrupted movement of water to designated points.

Imoke explained that one of the approaches to be adopted would be the enforcement of a clean up exercise within the state as it would involve the Ministry of Environment and Calabar Urban Development Authority while the Ministry of Works would be involved to ensure that the incidence of flooding of certain areas in the city becomes a thing of the past.

He frowned at the habit where residents dump refuse into drains, and silted drains are left uncleared thereby blocking free flow of water, even as he announced that proper legislation in line with government policy would be enacted to keep Calabar neat and tidy.

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