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LANDSLIDE THREATENS STATES — NEWS



IN ADDITION TO THE 2007 ELECTORAL LANDSLIDE? THAT'S SERIOUS

Erosion claims 50 in Obosi

ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU, *Awka*

Senator Representing Anambra Central in the National Assembly, Senator Annie Okonkwo yesterday called on federal government to send relief materials for over 50,000 people displaced by erosion in Obosi, Idemmili-North Local government area of Anambra State.

The gully erosion also claimed about 50 lives when it wreaked havoc yesterday with more houses under threat.

Senator Okonkwo who visited the displaced victims yesterday also called on the federal government to as a matter of urgency work on the Obosi bye pass known as Senator Mike Ajaegbo road which has been cut into two by the erosion to enable people of his constituency have access to other parts of the state.

He vowed to visit Mr president to draw his attention to the problem bedeviling his constituency for prompt attention since the president is a listening one. He sympathized with the people whose houses were washed away by the flood as well as those whose factories have stopped operations in the area because of the poor condition of the federal road.

He said he would move a motion on the floor of the National Assembly on how to improve the lot of those affected by the flood and would consult with agencies concerned with relief materials as well as the ministry of transportation on the immediate repair of the road.

Senator Okonkwo decried that industries located along the road have been closed down for business rendering the human resources and the economy comatose .

He called on the Anambra state government to equally complement his effort to attract federal assistance to his people adding that he would mobilize his fellow senators from the zone for a strong case to be made to the presidency.

He urged the federal government to declare a state of emergency on that road since lives and property worth several millions of naira were destroyed by the flood. He said that the situation would not have been worse if construction were done on the roads by the federal or state government.

While expressing optimism that President Yar'Adua would harkens to the pleas of the good sons of Obosi and people of Anambra state to direct for immediate work on that road, Senator Okonkwo asked the protesting youths and community leaders to exercise patience as the work would be done by the federal government even as he informed them that Governor Obi would be asked to assist with a palliative measure on the road.

Responding, the President General of the Obosi Development Union Mr Chukwurah Ifekandu and an industrialist in the Obosi bye pass Chief Eddy Onwumelu lamented that the erosion menace was caused by the Consolidated Construction Company (CCC) sequel to wrong channeling of gutters and unconcerned attitude of the firm as they were informed hour by hour information on the deteriorating condition of the road without them doing anything until the road was cut into two by erosion.