

Two feared dead as flood takes over Dutse- Baupma

Two persons were yesterday morning feared dead at Dutse-Baupma of Bwari Area Council when an early morning downpour caused a river to overshoot its bank and send water into the community.

A resident of the community, Anthony Otoro said the torrential rain started at 1.30am and subsided at 6am.

"At 5am we came out and met everything normal but few minutes later a heavy flood from the river's direction rushed into the community sweeping everything in sight away," he said.

Otoro disclosed that the water carried a 24-year-old man called Yusuf, who came out of his residence to rescue his property.

Our reporter also learnt that the flood also carried a small child while two other persons were rescued from the water by some residents.

Residents blamed the flood on the release of water from Usman Dam but the dam's officials denied that they released water into the community.

The Dam's Water Engineer, Jiniya B. Anto said the source of the river's water was

By Abubakar Yakubu & Misbahu Bashir

from the back of the dam and not from the dam's spill way as assumed by the residents.

When our reporters visited the Dutse- Baupma and Dutse-Makaranta yesterday morning, residents were seen removing water from their homes while a large number of them were at the river side trying to recover corpses of those that drowned.

Juliet Isaac said she was at her place of work when somebody called her on phone that her property had been carried away by flood.

"As you can see I have just returned to my house and I am trying to rescue whatever I can," she said.

Another lady, Veronica John appealed to the FCTA to come to their aid.

"This is a disaster as many of us have lost all we worked for to the flood and need to be compensated," she lamented.

Some residents were seen evacuating their families and property to other locations in order to avoid a recurrence.

"I have had enough of this place as this is the third time flood is carrying away my property and endangering my families lives," a man said.

Anthony Otoro blamed the ring shaped culvert underneath the bridge at Dutse Baupma for worsening the flood situation.

"The flood would not have occurred if the bridge contractors had put wide boxed culverts that can accommodate much water instead of the ring ones they put that have small holes and can easily be blocked by dirt," he said.

He called on the federal government to urgently replace the culvert with the proper ones to avert disaster, adding that the economic situation would not allow people to move out of the area.

The Traditional Ruler of Baupma, Etsu Haruna said his chiefs intimated him about the disaster on the phone.

He lamented the loss of lives and said he was told that two persons were found alive while a search was on going to recover the corpses of two persons that died.



Residents searching for corpses yesterday after the flood at Dutse-Baupma. Pic Abubakar Yakubu

