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Tourist dies at Gurara water falls

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THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2009

An Abuja based middle aged man, Christopher Warhembum has drowned at the Gurara water falls in Niger state while trying to swim. Until his death, the deceased who hailed from Benue State was an employee of Family Health International, a non governmental organization based in Abuja.

He was said to be in company of other tourists including foreigners at the time of death. He died when he was swept off course by the fast running fall.

Checks revealed that all attempts to rescue Warhemburn failed as he was completely taken by the current. It took efforts of local divers to recover the body. His demise brought confusion amongst his friends as they were at a loss on how to move the corpse to Abuja.

The Niger State Tourism Board and sympathisers salvaged the pathetic situation. The general manager of the board, Alhaji Ibrahim Mustapha Babanna said it was rare for tourists to die at the fall. He explained that adequate security was in place at the fall to check such occurrence, saying it was regrettable it had to happen at all. He stressed the need for tourists to be more careful. He added that on the side of the board security measures would be put in place.

"We always try to advise tourists on the need to avoid swimming in the water, but some of them disregard our advice", he said. Babanna said the management of the board had concluded arrangements to pay a condolence visit to the family of the deceased.

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