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## Reps approve \$500m World Bank loan

### Two teenagers drown in River Kaduna

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WRITTEN BY IBRAHEEM MUSA, KADUNA

MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2009 00:00

Two secondary school students aged 13 drowned in River Kaduna Saturday and by yesterday, their corpses had not been found. The deceased, Umar Farouk Sani and Sagir Tahir Aliyu, were students of Capital School, Kaduna.

When our correspondent visited the spot yesterday, several people gathered, discussing the incident while local divers were seen patrolling the area in the canoes. However, no government official, uniformed security agent or state emergency management official was on hand for the rescue mission.

Alhaji Sani Abdulsalam, a father of one of the deceased, told Daily Trust that he had traveled to Kano when the incident happened. He said he was told that Umar, his son, had gone to a Qur'anic school as he usually did on weekends but instead of returning to their CA 16 Jaji road, Malali home after school, he went to the river with his younger brothers and friends.

After taking their bath in the river, they all returned home but on getting home, Umar said that he had lost some money around the river. They returned to look for the money but didn't find it, he said. In the process, Sagir's feet were caked with mud and he decided to wash them by the river bank. Accidentally, he slipped and fell into the river and started yelling for help because he couldn't swim, Sani narrated, adding that at this juncture, his son dived into the river to rescue his friend. However, instead of approaching Sagir from the back, Umar went head on to his friend and Sagir grabbed his friend by the throat. The two friends drowned in the process.

According to him, local divers have been looking for the bodies since Saturday. Sani denied reports that the Sarkin ruwa or head diver of the area refused rescue operation to commence until he was given some money. He also refuted claims that the Sarkin ruwa asked that a ram be slaughtered before the divers could enter the water.

The deceased's father said he had neither reported the incident to the police or State Emergency Management Agency(SEMA). When Daily Trust called an official of SEMA, he said he was not aware of the incident but promised to inform the fire service to get to the scene. But up till 1.30pm yesterday they had not shown up.

Daily Trust was unable to speak with Alhaji Tahir Aliyu, the father of the late Sagir who is a member of staff of NNPC, to narrate what happened. Our reporter gathered that about 30 people have so far drowned in the Hayin Danbushiya segment of the River Kaduna this year.

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