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Erosion destroys 9 buildings, baby killed

Written by Eyo Charles, Calabar Saturday, 15 September 2012 05:00

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Nine residential buildings have been destroyed as a result of erosion in Atimbo water channel in Calabar Municipality leading to the displacement of about 150 persons.

Elsewhere in nearby Adim in Biase LGA of the state, a nine month old child, Godswill Echu Okon has been killed by rubble of a collapsed building following flood that wrecked havoc in the area.

The incident which occurred at the dead of the night took the parents of the child by surprise as water overwhelmed substantial part of the village.

The elder brother, 3 year old Jerry Echu Okon, survived the incident but with serious injuries and was hospitalized.

The parents are reported to have escaped death by the whiskers as they were rescued by vigilant youth who dug out the victims from the rubbles which had covered them in their sleeping bed.

The collapsing of the structures in Atimbo area was aggravated by erosion which swept away a section of the water channel and eroded the banks on which the buildings stood.

Assessing the disaster, the Director-General Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Mr. Vincent Aquah described the destruction caused by erosion as phenomenal.

Mr. Aquah said that while the Governor would be urgently briefed on the development relevant MDAs such as the ministries of Works and Environment would be contacted to begin the process of rehabilitation of the damaged system.

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