

Boy, 14, drowns in Gwagwalada river

Category: City news | Published on Friday, 27 March 2015 05:00 | Written by Abubakar Sadiq Isah | Hits: 195

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Residents of Anguwar Dodo in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory were on Tuesday afternoon thrown into mourning when an unidentified 14 -year-old boy drowned in a river in the area.

A witness said the incident happened around 2:23 p.m. when the deceased went to the river along with his play mates to take their bathe.

He said the boy after arriving the river, pulled off his clothes and jumped in but that he could not come out again.

"I was bathing at the river bank when the boy came and jumped inside the river, as I watched for over 12 minutes without him resurfacing, I raised an alarm," he said.

He said it was a fisherman in the area who later came and went into the river in search of the boy, adding that the man later found his lifeless body.

The witness said the remains of the boy were taken away by his relatives to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital at Gwagwalada, where doctors carried out an autopsy on him before depositing his remains at the mortuary.

Some of the people who spoke with our reporter said the river has also claimed the lives of two other residents of the area this year.

"Also in December last year, a man who went to bathe drowned in the river though the level of water in it had reduced," a resident, Usman Yakubu said.

Effort to get the reaction of the Gwagwalada Divisional Police Officer (DPO) on the incident was not successful.