

Mother of three dies following downpour

From Linus Effiong, Umuahia

Incessant rainfall in the last few days claimed the life of a mother of three yesterday in Nkwebi Community in Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia because she could not find shelter.

The woman, Mrs. Onwanma George, a peasant farmer, made her living by working for other

farmers to sustain her three little children as her husband has no means of livelihood. On this fateful day, Mrs. Okpan was hired with another woman to work on a farmland known as Ishi-Agu, in the outskirts of her community. Recounting the incident, the partner said when their work was almost done towards the evening, she parked her things and left the

deceased behind who insisted on tidying up a few places before calling it a day.

"Unfortunately, the rain came down in torrents and the late Onwanma was cut off. The Ishi-Agu farmland's difficult terrain did not help matters and it was dark. The woman could not find shelter anywhere," a source close to the deceased said. She added that towards

midnight when the rain abated, it was noticed by neighbours that late Onwanma was not yet back from farm, and that following the explanation from her partner, a search party comprising the local vigilante group, hunters, youths and volunteers left in search of her.

The source said, "When they finally found her snuggled under a small shrub, around

midnight, she was in a terrible condition. They rushed her home and headed to Mben Hospital, where she was confirmed dead on arrival."

The incident was not reported to the police as the family did not suspect any foul play, and were instead said to be preparing for her burial amidst worry for the survival of her little children that she worked so hard to feed.

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