

# How Warrant Officer, 5 others died in Kebbi flood

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The heavy flood which ravaged farmlands, houses, livestock and property in Kebbi State earlier this week consumed a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the Nigerian Army, Warrant Officer Marcel Nwanko of the 223 Light Battalion, Zuru, and five other persons.

Five bodies were recovered from the flood after incessant heavy rainfall at Unashi village in Danko-Wasagu LGA.

Residents said the officer died while trying to rescue a woman who was caught up and was being dragged away by the flood that submerged a section of the community.

A resident, Danladi Usman, said, “Nobody could dare the flood but the officer courageously decided to rescue the woman from it. While trying to pull her out, he was himself overpowered by the tide of the flood and was washed away with the woman”.

Nwanko was attached to the 223 Light Battalion in Zuru, but was in Unashi village, Danko Wasagu when the heavy rain came.

A community leader in Unashi, John Andrew, told our correspondent that his death was a big blow to the community. He described him as a complete patriot and a rare, gallant soldier.

“We will not forget him in this community. We are saddened by his death and that of others who died in the flood. It is unfortunate that he died trying to save another person. It shows he was a committed soldier who deserves to be remembered,” he said.

Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu paid a condolence visit to the family in Danko Wasagu where he told the wife that he received news of the death of her husband while in Abuja and decided to drive to Danko Wasagu to sympathize with the family. While donating N500,000 to the family, the governor also described him as gallant, disciplined and hardworking. Mrs. Nwanko said she received the news with shock, but that she and her children would take solace in God.