

# 2 swept away, 9 rescued as flooding hit Niger Ekiti, Lagos

From Raphael  
Ogbonnaiye (Ado-Ekiti)  
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- Passengers stranded; Minna-Bida road collapses
- Many rendered homeless in Ekiti

**T**orrential rains on Sunday wreaked havoc on parts of Lagos, Ekiti and Niger states with many buildings submerged and two deaths recorded in Lagos.

Passengers plying the Minna-Bida road were also stranded as a section of the road collapsed on Monday.

The collapse occurred about 23km from Bida, after Sagamio farms as a result of heavy downpour witnessed across the state in the past one week.

In Lagos, two men were on Monday swept away and nine women rescued following heavy flooding in some parts of the state.

A building located at 47 Akinwunmi Street, Akinwunmi North Estate Mende, Maryland, was said to have been flooded following the heavy

rainfall that started early Monday morning which resulted in its sinking.

It was gathered that when the building became distressed as a result of the flood, the owner used a ladder and fled leaving behind the women.

The landlord, who was accused of not notifying emergency workers of the situation, was handed over to the police when he resurfaced hours later.

Residents of Ajayi Street, Olubodun Ifesowapo, Olubodun, Fafunwa, Ipaja West and Tioluwani in Alimosho LGA, parts of Ago Palace Way, Okota and Canal Estate also experienced heavy flooding following a downpour that lasted over four hours.

One of the victims identified as Alfa was said

to have been swept away after he went to his house in Iyana Ipaja to retrieve some valuables.

The Public Relations Officer of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Ibrahim Farinloye, said Alfa had successfully evacuated his wife and four children from the house but went back after some time but the current swept him away.

"However, two other people who were with him were reached with the help of some community members. The family of Alfa had been evacuated to a relative's residence.

"Another adult male fell from a wooden bridge at the Command area into running water. He was almost swept away but help reached him," he

said.

In Ekiti, many residents of some communities in Ado Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital, were yesterday dislodged as their residential buildings were flooded after about six hours torrential rains on Sunday night.

The affected areas are Oshodi, Ilupeju Avenue, Ureje, Ita Eku, and Temidire Emirin - a suburb of Ado Ekiti metropolis located along Federal Polytechnic road.

Residents of Temidire Emirin community were worse hit as the water from Ureje River overflowed its banks, thereby prevented students, civil servants and artisans from going to school and work on Monday.

A victim, Mr Jude Ajulo, said they were asleep

when water surged into their residence around 2am and submerged their property.

He said the occupants of the three-bedroom bungalow had to run out when the water level was rising and threatening their lives.

He said, "This has been the occurrence every year. It happened the same way a few years ago before the administration of Mr Ayodele Fayose dredged the Ureje River.

"The only way the government can help us is to dredge the river to contain the water coming down from Odo-Ado, Oshodi and Ilupeju Avenue to our community."

A resident of Oshodi, along Afao road, Mr Taiwo Osaleye, appealed

to government to dredge Elemi River to resolve the flood crisis.

"We have noticed that we always experience flooding anytime the Elemi River overflows its banks. The only thing that can bring a permanent solution is for the government to help us expand the river bank, so that the safety of our lives and property can be guaranteed."

The General Manager, Ekiti State Emergency Management Agency, Mr Olajide Borode, said the agency had started visiting the affected areas to get firsthand information on the extent of damage caused by flooding.

"Our officials are presently visiting the areas affected, so that we can get the correct information that can guide government's action in resolving the incident," he said.