

METRO

Three killed, houses destroyed in Calabar flood

HEAVERY rains and flooding have claimed three lives in Calabar, Cross River State, with properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

Shocked with the development, the Cross River State Government has worked out modalities to tackle the perennial flooding of certain parts of Calabar metropolis.

Two of the victims, Blessing and Joseph Sunday, under 10 years of age, were drowned Saturday before last in a flood that swept them away near their home at Ikot Uduak in Old Parliamentary Village.

Only last weekend, a two and a half year old boy, Anaikorishor Ogbohor, in a similar circumstance, drowned in front of his home at 15 Iso Oqua Street, Calabar.

Last Saturday's flood was so devastating that it swept across both Calabar Municipal and Calabar South councils, pulling down perimeter fences and flooded several houses with residents scampering for safety. The fence of the Governor's Office was also pulled down.

Some of the areas worst hit include Bishop Monya, Ediba, Otop Abasi, Nyong Edet, Ekpo Abasi and others.

Briefing newsmen after an on-the-spot assessment of the damage by last Saturday's rain in the city, Governor Liyel Imoke on Sunday disclosed that the city's drainage network will be redesigned to accommodate heavy volume of flow during rainy seasons.

According to him, the gutters will be widened

*From Anietie Akpan,
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while the channelization of flowing water will be strengthened to ensure uninterrupted movement of water to designated points.

Imoke noted that it was a common sight that Calabar rain, which is usually heavy, has the capacity of causing some damages, adding that government intends to address the situation with the view of creating a permanent solution.

He noted that one of the approaches to be adopted would be the enforcement of a clean up exercise within the state as it would involve the Ministry of Education and Calabar Urban Development Authority (CUDA), explaining that the Min-

istry of Works would be involved to ensure that the incidence of flooding of certain identified areas in the city becomes a thing of the past.

Imoke, however, frowned at the habit where residents dump refuse into the drains, thereby blocking the free flow of running water as well as where silted drains are left uncleared, stressing that a proper legislation in line with government's policy would be enacted to keep Calabar neat and tidy.

Imoke, who had earlier

visited the residence of His Grace, Most Rev. (Dr.) Joseph Ukpo, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Calabar at Bishop Moynagh Avenue, State Houseing Estate, accompanied by the Commissioners of Works, Mr. Edward Ogon, and Environment, Mr. Tom Agi, inspected the felled perimeter fences as well as some household properties damaged by flood. He promised that government would tackle the flooding problems encountered by the Archbishop's Chancery and

that of adjoining residents by constructing a channel for free flow of water to ease their predicament.

He also visited and consoled the family of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ogbohor, whose two and a half year old son, Anaikorishor, drowned within their residence at 15 Iso Oqua Street, before inspecting the damaged fence of the State House of Assembly members' quarters at Ekorinim as well as the collapsed fence between Governor's Office and Ministry of Finance headquarters.

Seek medical help for health problems, Christians told

By Seye Olumide

CHRISTIANS have been urged to take the issue of their health more seriously and desist from seeking dubious spiritual solutions to

issues of health that ought to have been given medical attention.

Speaking during the programme, Health Week, organised by Methodist Church of Nigeria, Diocese of Lagos West, the Rt. Rev. Isaac Olawuyi, said: "There is nothing