

Erosion Claims 20 Lives, Threatens Homes

FROM CHUKS COLLINS,
AWKA

NO fewer than 20 persons recently lost their lives as a result of erosion and landslide following heavy downpour of rain in two Anambra State communities.

Also destroyed were many private homes, farm lands, cash crops, livestock and a bridge linking Ukpo and Ifite/Dunu communities of Dunukofia Local Government Area, to the rest of the state.

Briefing journalists after an emergency visit to the two communities, the member representing Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia Federal Constituency at the National Assembly,

Iyom Uche Ekwunife, expressed shock at the extent of damage and losses.

Another serious danger posed by the ravaging erosion in the area, he said, was the imminent collapse of the 330KV Breaker High Tension twin-tower lines, property of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc (PHCN) at Ifite-Dunu.

This line, according to the Awka Business Manager of the company, O.E. Ezeugwa, supplies electricity to the SouthEast and north Central States.

He expressed fear that if the erosion, which has eaten deep into the base of the high tension stanchions (stand) was not quickly tackled, it would

cause extensive health, environmental and economic hazards to Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Kogi, Benue and Nassarawa states.

ANAMBRA

The traditional ruler of the area, Igwe Humphrey Okoye, who

reportedly lost part of his palace and the adjacent Emmanuel Anglican Church Cathedral, wondered what has become of estimated N850 mil-

lion intervention fund allocated to the project by the Federal Government in last year's budget.

