

Nine corps members drown during picnic in Taraba State

By [Editor](#)

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Members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) PHOTO: NAN

Nine members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) who are currently serving in Taraba State on Saturday drowned in River Mayo-Selbe in Gashaka Local government Area of the state.

Taraba State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP David Missal, who confirmed the death of nine out of the 22 corps members who were swimming in River Mayo-Selbe, said seven bodies have so far been recovered from the incident.

“Information available revealed that 22 youth corps members had gone on a picnic party in River Mayo-Selbe in Gashaka LGA on Saturday when the incident happened.

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“We were made to understand that while they were swimming in the river, there was sudden upsurge in the volume of water, which carried them away.

Nine of them drowned, while others managed to escape.

We have so far recovered seven bodies, while the search for the two remaining is still in progress,” Missal said.

The state NYSC coordinator, Mrs. Florence Yaakugh, also confirmed the incident, which she described as “most unfortunate.”

Yaakugh also confirmed that seven bodies have been recovered, while the search for the other two bodies was still ongoing by the locals in collaboration with security agencies and the NYSC.

“It is a very sad development and we would soon have the identity of all the corps members involved in the accident and make such information known appropriately.

We have very sketchy information indicating that nine of our corps members drowned in Gashaka yesterday.

“So far, seven bodies have been recovered and we are working with relevant persons to recover the rest of the bodies and to identify them.

This is a very sad development and the entire NYSC family in Taraba State is already thrown into deep mourning,” she said.

This incident is coming exactly three months after Mr. Ojeshola Taofeek, a member of the NYSC who just passed out from service, drowned in Nembe River in the Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

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The tragic incident occurred when the deceased, who hailed from Osun State, went to the Ogbolomabiri jetty to take pictures of the waterside as part of his fun memories during his service.

It was reported that Taofeek was preparing to go home after completing a skill acquisition training on tailoring, which he started for self-development, before his demise.

According to a source, the demise had collected his vocational certificate on tailoring two days before the unfortunate incident.

“This corps member passed out among the recent set this year. He bought crayfish from my neighbour in preparation to return home joyfully. Unfortunately, he accompanied his colleagues to a waterfront (Jetty).

He set himself at the edge of the jetty to take a photograph possibly with the aim of uploading on Facebook or to show his people when he gets home on how he had safely ended his service in the riverine area.

He fell into the river as the steps were slippery.

Indigenes rushed to the scene having heard the sorrowful shouting for help.

They searched for him more than 30 minutes before he was finally found.

They applied all the efforts to revive him but he gave up the ghost.”

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