

# 70-year-old man, another die in Anambra flood

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The corpse of a 70-year-old man, Mr. Sunday Mesiobi, has been recovered in Akpoma, Atani community of Ogbaru Local Council of Anambra State after his house was submerged in flood.

The deceased was an uncle to a former Transition Committee Chairman of the council and the House of Representatives candidate for Ogbaru Federal Constituency on the platform of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Honourable Arinzechukwu Awogu.



*Flooded community in Anambra*

His death was the second occasioned by rising waters and sweeping floods across the six riverine Local Councils of the state.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has earlier announced the first victim of flood-related death in the state in Enugu-Otu Aguleri, Anambra East Local Council.

Confirming the death, Awogu said the septuagenarian's body was discovered in his room which was submerged by water.

According to him, the deceased was the only one left in the house, stressing that his remains had been deposited at the Atani mortuary.

“It was not clear the exact time the incident happened, but family sources said that his lifeless body was found when one of them came to check on him and after calling his name repeatedly without response.

“They sighted his cloth floating on the water inside his room and when the cloth was pulled up it turned out that his body was under the water,” he said.

While expressing sadness over the unfortunate incident, Awogu called on those whose houses had been submerged to stay away from such houses for their safety.

He thanked the Government of Anambra for efforts made to mitigate the effect of the disaster and called for a change in response strategy, saying it had become an emergency situation.

“It has gone beyond asking people to converge in a particular location.

“We need more of a community-based approach where community leaders, the President General will have more direct contact with victims everywhere including holding camps,” he said.

Recall that Governor Charles Soludo had visited some Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in Onitsha and Atani in Onitsha North and Ogbaru Local Councils

Some of the affected communities in Ogbaru are Ogwu Ikpele, Akili Ogidi, Obeagwe, Ossomala, Umunankwo, Ogbakuba, Ochuche, Akili Ozizor, Atani, Ohita, and Odekpe. Other areas devastated by the ravaging flood include Amiyi, Iyiowa, Ogbeukwu, Okoti, and parts of Okpoko.

IDPs camps were set up at Premier Schol Aguleri and Fr.. Joseph Memorial Secondary School for Aguleri for victims from Anambra West; Atani, Headquarter of Ogbaru, Central School Odekpe and St. James Anglican Church Odekpe for Ogbaru Local Council victims.

Also, Onitsha Local Council Headquarters and Township Stadium were set up for IDPs from Ogbaru, while victims from Agueke Primary School Ugbenu, Central School Ugbene and Central School Oba, Ofemili had their camps in Awka North Local Council.

Likewise, Ozubulu, Headquarters of Ekwusigo and Akwa Town Hall Ozubulu housed victims from Ekwusigo Local Council and those victims from Ihiala Local Council were camped at St. Paul's Ihiala and Ihiala Local Council Headquarters respectively.

During his visit, the Governor promised to assist them with food items and other materials, among others to enable them to stay temporarily at the camps pending the time the flood subsides.

Investigation by The Guardian revealed that the council areas already submerged are Anambra East, Anambra West, Ogbaru, Awka North, Ihiala, Ekwusigo.

These agrarian and fishing communities, it was learnt, witnessed heavy rains and flood havoc each year, with government, religious organisations, civil society and public spirit individuals donating cash, food and materials for their well-being.