

Three girls drown in Ebonyi stagnant water

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THE QUIET Abakaliki community of Ebonyi State, on Tuesday turned into mourning as the news of drowning of three young girls filtered into the city.

The girls between the ages of 18, 19 and 21 were said to have drowned in stagnant water where they went to fetch water.

The incident happened just eight days after the state government took delivery of ductile water pipes for reticulation of water from Ofuruekpe water scheme to the state capital, Abakaliki.

The girls, Chinonye Peace Mgbada, an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) graduate of Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Enugu, Alice Nwokwu, and Uzoamaka Nwinyima, who drowned when they were trying to fetch water, were in the Oriuzor community where they accompanied their neighbour for the burial of her relation.

They were led by a lad to a canal abandoned by limestone miners to collect water.

The story had it that one of the ladies slipped into the ditch abandoned by mining operators, which had served as source of water to the Umuigboke community of Oriuzor.

One of the girls tried to rescue their friend only for her to join her in the painful death, just as the third girl, in attempt to rescue the others also slipped to death. Following their death, the child who led them to the stream ran home to narrate the incident.

It took several hours to get them out of the pond, as the only way was to drain the it, using a water distribution tanker, which came from several kilometers away.

According to reports, the girls died clutching their mobile telephones.