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Three children drown in Ebonyi river

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By **Felix Uka**

Correspondent, Abakaliki

Three children between the ages of 12 and nine years old were on Tuesday drowned in a strange river in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The dangerous Ebia River in Enugwu Agbaja Village, Abakaliki Local Government Area of Ebonyi State is said to have been noted for drowning children every year.

Confirming the incident, the father of one of the deceased children, Mr. Samuel Ogbonna gave the names of the children as Somtochukwu Ogbonna, 12 years, Kingsley Nwenyi, 12 years and Obinna Nwenyi, nine years old.

Unconfirmed report said that six other persons are also suspected to have drowned in the other two villages within the community as it is believed that each period such incident occurs, it happens in the three villages of Enugwu Agbaja Village.

According to Ogbonna who was visibly affected by the incident said that though he was not around when the incident occurred, he was informed that, the three

children came back from school, went to the River to swim before meeting their untimely death.

According to him; “I was not around when the incident took place. My wife had to call me immediately she got the information. From the information I gathered from people around, the three of them came back from school, went to the river to swim and were drowned in the river.

“The incident is a regular occurrence every year, each year the river comes with heavy flood and when it comes, it usually drown people, both children and adults in the community and people are conscious of such occurrence but we never anticipated it would happen this period as the rains are yet to come heavy.

“A visit to the river, you would never believe that the three children were drowned in that river because you can walk across it without any danger but at the beginning of any rainy season, the river would just come sweep across and disappear again and on the process, lives would be lost”.

Ogbonna described the incident as unfortunate and regrettable adding that the incident has thrown the community into serious mourning.

Hundreds of sympathizers who besieged the two families to sympathize with them were seen in mournful moods.

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