

## Nigeria: Rain Wrecks Havoc in Owerri, Kills Tricycle Operator

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By Anolu Vincent

Owerri — A heavy downpour that took many residents of Owerri, capital city of Imo State, and outskirts, unawares, for several hours on Tuesday evening, left a tricycle operator, Joseph, a native of Isu Local Council of Imo State, dead.

As at press time, sympathizers, friends and relations of the deceased were at the scene of the accident at Imo State University junction, along Okigwe Road, Owerri, in sympathetic mood recounting the ugly incident.

A team of police personnel led by one Agbor Tam, a Superintendent of Police, was there directing a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), from Orji, Owerri North, on how to follow the necessary entries and documentations before the remains of the deceased were moved to a morgue.

According to a witness, the late Joseph, who lived in Amakohia, Uratta Owerri North Local Council, until his death had a wife and two children.

He was said to have taken off from his home on August 25, amid tight traffic gridlock in Owerri city, following the massive turn out of lawyers on their Annual General Conference, holding at Imo International Centre, Owerri, to carry out his daily commercial transport business when seemingly heavy rain that lasted for hours began, flooding many areas.

The deceased rammed into the flood which pulled him from his tricycle into the flowing water from a distance at Lamonde Hotel, Okigwe Road, to Imo a fuel station, near Imo State University Junction, Owerri is situated.

Some good Samaritans who struggled to save his life pulled his body from drainage after a long battle, according to the witness.

His tricycle was still stocked at the Lamonde point as at press time.

Many accidents which killed many persons have occurred at the junction, according to the witness. Construction work was also going on at the junction when The Daily Independent visited the scene.

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