

Flood Kills Three-Year-Old, Submerges Churches, Markets, Schools In Benue

By **Tor Vande-Acka** - August 9, 2019



Part of the flooded area.

Makurdi – The torrential rainfall that lasted about five hours in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, Thursday morning has claimed the life of a three-year-old, simply identified as Tavershima.

Churches, schools, markets, houses, household appliances were submerged while streets were rendered impassable by flood.

The Commissioner for Water Resources and Environment, Engr. Dondo Ahile, confirmed the death of the toddler to Daily Independent in Makurdi.

Reacting to the perennial flood in the state, a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Tersoo Kulas, called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to probe the state governor, Samuel Ortom, over Ecological Funds that had accrued to the state in the last five years.

In a swift reaction to the allegations, the state government has called on the Federal Government to account for the Ecological Funds meant for Benue, saying the state was yet to receive the funds.

Terver Akase, Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to Governor Ortom, who made the statement, observed that the state had not received the funds.

He said it was possible that the Federal Government may have been diverting funds meant for ecological issues in the state.

But Kulas, who is the spokesman of the Jime/Ode Governorship Campaign Organisation, explained that the probe would be to ascertain what the state government had done with over N12.8 billion funds that may have accrued to the state in the last five years to tackle ecological issues.

In a statement made available to Daily Independent in Makurdi, on Thursday, Kulas attributed the flood that had consistently taken its toll on the state in the last five years to the insensitivity of the government.

The APC chieftain insisted that "no sensitive government would allow the same disaster to reoccur for five consecutive years without a solution".

But Akase, CPS to Governor Ortom, called on the APC government to account for the ecological funds.

He pointed out that as the government at the centre, the APC was in a better position to tell the world the position of the funds, adding that the Federal Government may have been appropriating the funds which had not reached the state.

Meanwhile, the flood that hit Makurdi, the state capital, claimed the life of a three-year-old Tavershima.

Although the events that led to the death of the toddler could not be immediately ascertained, Daily Independent gathered that the boy may have slipped into the water and died in the midst of the confusion when the parents woke up late in the night to find out that the house was submerged.

Tavershima was the only son of Tartenger, aka Or-kuda, who, it was learnt, had earlier lost another child in similar circumstances a few years ago.

It was gathered that the rainfall that started a little after 1a.m and subsided about 8a.m on Thursday morning ravaged and made inaccessible many structures and facilities in the state capital.

It also brought about untold hardship to road users in Makurdi metropolis.

The structures and facilities that were submerged during the flood included the area behind the 'B' Division police station.

Other structures included Steam Fast, a confectionery; a mansion next to the home of Second Republic governor, Aper Aku; Villa Suites Street, as well as some corner shops around Gyado villa.

Also submerged were Dunamis Church and many other houses around the vicinity opposite the second gate of Benue State University (BSU), Makurdi.

The incident also crippled most business activities in the state, including the Wurukum and Wadata markets for the better part of Thursday.