

One Drowns As Fed Poly, Afe Babalola Varsity Link Bridge Collapses In Ekiti

By **Popoola Yaqoub** - October 2, 2019



The collapsed bridge

ADO-EKITI – Hundreds of residents of Ado-Ekiti were cut off as the bridge linking a section of the state capital collapsed Monday night after a downpour.

The Police authorities have confirmed that one person lost his life after a flooded Ureje bridge.

The casualties would have been higher as three persons washed away by the torrential flooding were reportedly rescued by a Hausa man, a witness account has revealed.

Unfortunately, there is no other alternative route to the section being cut off as Ekiti State Government had deployed machinery to effect a temporary solution.

It was gathered that the collapse of the bridge has hindered human and vehicular movements for several hours.

Early on Tuesday, the water level was so high that commuters traveling to Afe Babalola University, Federal Polytechnic and to Ikare Akoko in Ondo State and those coming into the state capital, had to park their vehicles and waited for several hours before the water subsided for them to trek through.

A resident of the area, Mr. Sunday Akomolafe explained that the victim and three women who were coming from Abuja and wanted to navigate the water only for them to be overwhelmed by flood.

“Three of them were rescued and taken to the hospital but the man was not all that lucky, he drowned in the water and his corpse was recovered around 8am Tuesday morning.”

The Deputy Governor, Chief Bisi Egbeyemi, who visited the scene, appealed for calm, assuring that the state government will ensure that the bridge is put back to proper shape.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti Command, DSP Caleb Okechuku confirmed the death.

Ikechuku said, “Yes, I can confirm to you that one man was drowned and his corpse had been removed and taken to the mortuary.”

Special Adviser on Road Transport and Infrastructure to Governor Kayode Fayemi, Hon. Adunmo Rufus, who was at the bridge supervising the palliative works being done, said the disconnected section would be reconnected within the next few hours.

“We are embarking on palliative works till dry season when the road will be awarded for construction. What we need here is a new bridge that can accommodate more water. 60×60 bridge is no longer fashionable. We are piling stones and granites on the collapsed lane.

“We are going to open one lane for commuters and motorists to use pending the time the palliative measures will end that will put the second lane back. It is going to be for light vehicles, because we are going to mount restriction,” he said.

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