

Family Grieves Over Death Of Woman Swept Away By Flooding

By AKINWALE ABOLU... On Oct 5, 2019

FEATURES



Alhaja Adepoju

A long search for a sexagenarian by her relatives and security operatives ended in lamentation recently. She was found dead four days after the flooding that trailed last Monday's downpour in Ibadan, reports AKINWALE ABOLUWADE.

For four days, her whereabouts were shrouded in mystery. Friends and family members remained in confusion over the fate of the old woman who was loved by most of her neighbours as well as her co-traders in the market. Alhaja Nusirat Adeyinka Adepoju, a trader at Aleshinloye Market, Ibadan had been missing since the evening of Monday, September 30 and efforts to locate her or to unravel the mystery surrounding her disappearance had failed.

Clouds of anguish later settled on Gbaremu, Idi-Obi community of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, in the early hours of Thursday, October 3, when a report confirmed that the woman was found dead along the flood plane in a remote part of the city.

The four days of search for the deceased were, indeed, the most trying period for her friends and family members as it became tortuous and challenging to pacify her husband, Alhaji Tajudeen and Funke, her daughter.

UPDATE: Court grants Sowore N100m bail, Bakare, N50m

The 60-year-old woman was declared missing in the evening of Monday, September 30 after the downpour. Hammed, her son and another family member, who spoke to Saturday Tribune on Wednesday, expressed apprehension about the state in which the missing woman might be, saying that they were unsure whether she was still alive or not. "But it was expedient for us to unravel the fact about her state because it was difficult for us to determine what had happened to her really," her son had earlier said.

Apart from launching a search party to comb different parts of the city, it was learnt that her family members had reported the case at the Agugu Police Station, Ibadan. The family had expressed frustrations about several failed attempts to reach her on the telephone.

Hammed and other members of the family explained that they had visited accident and emergency wards of hospitals in Ibadan and the adjoining communities. They had also searched for her body at the hospital mortuaries to find out whether she was injured or dead to no avail between Monday and Wednesday.

Alhaja Adepoju, a slim, six feet tall, light complexioned woman had no inkling of the cruel fate that awaited her when she left her Gbaremu, Idi-Obi residence for her shop at Aleshinloye Market on Monday morning. A family member said that a source had earlier confirmed to them that she was last seen on her way home around 9:00pm at Gbaremu, Oremeji area of the city.

Speaking about the circumstances that led to her disappearance, Hammed said: “My mother is living with my father. She is a trader and on that fateful day, she had left for Aleshinloye Market where she sells her wares in the morning. She was on her way from shop and we learnt that while she was just a few metres away from home she could not proceed because it was raining heavily. Later, we learnt that she left the place where she waited to take shelter after the rain. But, on getting to a bridge in the neighbourhood, she discovered that it had been taken over by flood.

“From that point, she called her husband on the telephone to intimate him of the development. That was the last time she was heard of; that was her last conversation with anyone. We gathered that she eventually left the house where she took shelter in company with a few other people. They were to cross the bridge afoot. Unfortunately, that was the last we heard.

“After the rain, the husband came out immediately to look for her but she was nowhere to be found. Thereafter, calls placed to her phone rang repeatedly up till 11:00pm but there was no response. The phone later stopped ringing.”