

# FEMA Search Team Recovers Body Of Drowned 43-Year-Old Man



By Toyin Adebayo On Aug 31, 2020 5:42 AM

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**ABUJA** – The body of one Mr. Garba Joseph, 43-year-old man from Akoka-Edo of Edo State, has been recovered by the FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Search and Rescue team after two days of intensive search from a flooded river around TradeMoore Estate, Lugbe, in Abuja.

This is just as the Director General of FCT FEMA, Alh. Idriss Abbas, again warned FCT residents to avoid flooded areas to avert the dangers of falling victims of flood.

Saddened by the unfortunate incident, Abbas emphasised the need for residents to adhere to instructions and early warnings from relevant authorities, adding that attitudinal change is key to reducing disasters to the barest minimum in the FCT.

An eye witness account (one of FEMA's volunteer/ vanguard, Kenneth Chima) while narrating the incident said, "They were four men that tried to walk through the water and I kept warning them to go back. Three of them went back but only this man insisted on crossing; unfortunately the water overpowered him and washed him away."

Abbas, however, decried the increasing rate of flood in the FCT which he attributed to residents' apathy towards government's directives and early warnings.

This is also despite FEMA's consistent sensitisations based on NIMET & NIHSA predictions of torrential rainfall and dangers of flooding.

The FEMA DG said NIHSA's most recent prediction has warned of torrential rainfall and flooding from August 2020 and that the agency has been carrying out aggressive sensitisation of residents to educate them on ways to prevent the impending flood.

He said FEMA was conducting the exercise in five different indigenous languages in the FCT using different media channels.

“Furthermore, we recently organised a meeting with our Volunteers, Vanguard and Divers from all the area Councils within the FCT to educate them on how they can sensitize their people on how to prevent disasters to minimize loss of lives and properties. We have embarked on community to community flood sensitization campaigns in the FCT and also mounted billboards at all the flood prone points warning off and cautioning residents from these danger areas,” the FEMA boss asserted.

“Most of the deaths we have recorded in the past from flood in the FCT were as a result of non-compliance to instructions and early warnings,” he said.

Alhaji Idriss emphasised the agency’s commitment to reducing disasters to the barest minimum in the FCT, and called on residents to complement the efforts of the FCT Administration by doing the needful.

He also advised residents not to underestimate the strength of water when it is flooded.

“What we are experiencing now is flash flood, the water builds up speedily and comes unnoticed hence very dangerous,” he explained.

Abbas appealed to residents to desist from unwholesome environmental practices especially indiscriminate waste disposal on waterways, building on flood plains, as they could block waterways and lead to flooding.

He further called on community and religious leaders to be charged with the responsibility of sensitising their subjects, especially those who are living close to flood prone areas to move to higher grounds to avoid being washed away by floods, adding that relevant authorities have been on their toes evacuating refuse around the FCT, distilling drainages and expanding narrow water channels to enable free flow of water for a safer FCT.