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Apprentice Trader Drowns In Onitsha Flood

By Chukwujekwu Ilozue

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Awka - A teenage apprentice trader whose identity could not immediately be ascertained has drowned at the Ochanja market round-about axis in Onitsha in Anambra state during last Tuesday's heavy downpour.

INDEPENDENT learnt that during the heavy rain flood submerged the entire business area leading to the young man placing a wrong foot on the plank used to cross the gutter from his master's shop and the road.

The incident, it was learnt, happened at about 4.30 pm on the fateful day.

It was learnt that the plank used to cross the gutter cut into two as he wanted to step to the road.



Traders in n disarray after the rain.

As the plank broke, he fell into the deep gutter, got drowned and was washed away by the speed moving flood into the Nwangene river.

All efforts to wedge and stop the body from being washed into the Nwangene by sympathisers who got wind of the incident proved abortive, it was learnt.

A search party was also organised by the traders with the hope of seeing the decomposing body also failed.

It was gathered that the development caused heavy traffic grid-lock for over two hours.

A trader who pleaded anonymity recalled that a similar incident happened at the same place. He said: "Some years ego similar development occurred in the same place and it has reoccurred again.

"We tried to know if we could get the dead body but to no avail. I mercy for the boy who I did not know what he was pursuing that made him to try to defy the heavy rainfall that brought this flood that submerged the road and shops and finally led to his death.

"He would have allowed the rain to subside before stepping out of the shop and who knew if he sustained an injury when he fell in the flood to carry him away without any resistance."



Chukwujekwu Ilozue

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