

# 15 feared dead as Rivers Niger and Anambra sack 10 communities

From Nwanoske Onu, Awka

**N**O fewer than 15 people are feared dead in floods that swept through Anambra West Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Submerged by Rivers Niger and Anambra which burst their banks are 10 communities. Some 450 people are rendered homeless.

The member representing the area in the House  
Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 1

of Assembly, Hon. Mike Offor, urged the Federal Government to declare the area a disaster zone.

In tears, the lawmaker, who disclosed this yesterday on the floor of the Assembly chamber, told his colleagues that his constituents are now refugees in their own land.

Others who spoke on the issue, including the Speaker, Hon Anayo Nnebe, called on the state government to see the situation as an emergency.

Offor, who was touched by his constituents' plight, said: "My constituency is Anambra West, and the people are living in a peninsular. They are living on a piece of land between the River Anambra and River Niger. Incidentally with the overflowing of the River Niger, that constituency is submerged now. Right now, as I'm talking to you, the River Niger has overflowed its banks also, people's building and farmlands with crops have been submerged.

"The worst is that lives have just been lost. I am appealing to the state to declare Anambra West a

flood disaster area.

"It is unfortunate that the local government is the most neglected local government in the whole of the South-East.

"It is a local government that has no potable water, that has no light, has no road, has nothing that belong to the government, they have been existing there on their own. Any atom of infrastructure that is there was built by the communities themselves, none belongs to the state, none belongs to the Federal Government."

Before the motion by Offor, the House had earlier had audience with treasurers of the 21 local government areas for

questioning, but they were told to go when it was confirmed that they had submitted their financial reports to the House as earlier directed.

The House, however, adjourned until September 25, after the leader, Hon. Njideka Ezeigwe, representing Ogbaru 1 Constituency, had presented a bill for a "law to provide salaries of public officers in the state and to provide for related purposes" and after all the members had commented on the High Court ruling against the former lawmakers on Monday by Justice Celine Nweke.

## Attorney-General

Continued from page 2

Attorney-General did to the President was to whittle the prosecutorial powers of the EFCC, a request granted by the President only to be reversed after public outcry. Yet the AG continues to use that power to prevent the anti-graft war from having a bite. The question to ask is why is it that this obsession for the rule of law is

public good. If indeed there is a 'black-market' injunction restraining the EFCC from arresting Kalu, the minister should have ensured that order was set aside so that Kalu can face trial and prove his innocence or otherwise. The sheer bravado of the minister betrays his tolerance for corruption which has turned our country to the shame that it is today."