

Flood kills expectant mother, five others in Onitsha

A Nexpectant mother and five others have died in a flood in Onitsha, Anambra State, following five hours of heavy rainfall on Monday.

Properties worth millions of naira were also destroyed.

The rain started at about 5:30p.m. and ended at about 10:30p.m.

Incidentally, the rain began around the closing time of major markets in the commercial city.

Sources said commercial bus drivers cashed in on the situation and hiked their fares from N50 to N200.

The flood forced vehicles to a standstill for about three hours, it was learnt.

According to sources, many people resorted to trekking on the flooded roads.

It was gathered that the vic-

others in Onitsha

From Adimike George, Onitsha

tims plunged into flooded drains and were swept away.

Sources said the city was thrown into mourning yesterday, when residents found bodies at various areas.

Eye witnesses said the expectant mother's body was

Chime swears in perm secs, Judicial Service Commission members

E NUGU State Governor Sullivan Chime has sworn in seven Permanent Secretaries and four members of the State Judicial Service Commission.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chime urged them to always respect the constitution when discharging their duties.

found in a drain by the Electronic market, on the Onitsha/Asaba express way.

Also on the express way, two bodies were found at the Coca-cola junction, it was learnt.

A commercial cyclist, who wanted to retrieve his motorcycle from the flood, was

said to have been swept away.

Sources said his body was found on Tuesday at Fegge. Two other bodies were discovered at Nwangene creek, said an eyewitness.

Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Abubakar Isah of Okpoko Police Station confirmed the death of only two men.

He said the deceased were about 50 years old.

The Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) expressed concern over the flood.

MASSOB said: "What is the essence of Internally Generated Revenue?"

"There is no security of lives and property, good roads or proper market environment.

"Yet, the government is imposing different taxes on inhabitants."

The seven Permanent Secretaries are Mr. H.O. Eze, Mr. Christopher Eze, Mr. Pius Nnam, Mr. Chidi Ezema, Mr. John Ogbuka, Mr. Basil Chukwu and Mr. Wilson Njoku. The members of the Judicial Commission are Mr. Gab Agbo, Mr. Emeka Chime, Mr. Victor Onyebuchi and Mrs. Cellina Adibua.