

Two drown in Cross River

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TWO people have drowned at the Owakande Beach in Obubra Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The victims were a teenager, Ime, from Akwa Ibom State and a young man, Ifochi, from Ikom in Cross River State.

An eyewitness, Okpa, said some boys were playing football on the beach, when one of them kicked it into the water.

According to him, one of the boys went into the water to retrieve the ball and almost drowned.

It was learnt that Ime dived in to save his friend.

"Ime held the boy and swam with him to a shallow area, but he strangely slipped

From Nicholas Kalu, Calabar

and fell back into a deeper part of the water and was not seen again.

"The person he went to save was rescued but he got himself drowned instead.

"A rescue mission was immediately organised. The rescuers got in a boat to scout the area but Ifochi said he wanted to begin the search by swimming from the shore.

"He was advised against this but he remained adamant. He got lost in the water and has not been found."

Ime's body, it was gathered, was found close to Akataka Beach in neighbouring Ebonyi State where it had drifted to.