

Four drown in Cross River

From Nicholas Kalu, Calabar

FOUR men drowned in a well in Ikom Local Government Area of Cross River State, it was learnt yesterday.

An eyewitness said: "The first victim, John, went to fetch water from a well in the compound. The rope, which was tied to the bucket used to fetch water, cut and fell in the well.

"He decided to retrieve it by jumping into the well but drowned.

"His brother, Boniface, who was in his shop at Ikom Market, was alerted and he hurried to rescue his brother. He also jumped into the well.

"When he did not come out, another neighbour also jumped in to rescue the two brothers.

"When the landlord, Ebam, saw what had happened. He too jumped in the well.

"It was at this point that officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, who mounted a road block close to the house, called the Fire Service.

"When the firemen arrived, they went into the well and retrieved the bodies.

"The bodies were taken to the County Hospital, Ikom Four Corners, and were confirmed dead on arrival.