

Eight die mysteriously in Akwa Ibom river

EIGHT people died mysteriously in a river at Ikot Abia-Enyie in Nsit Atai Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, it was learnt yesterday.

(8) The Nation gathered that eight pupils, who were returning from school in Ikot Abia-Enyie in Nsit Atai Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, drowned in the Atang River.

Atang River divides Ikot Abia-Enyie village into two; with all the facilities in the area - a health centre, a primary and a secondary school, located on the other side of the river.

Besides the eight pupils, a pregnant woman was also said to have died in the river. The pregnant woman, it was learnt, was trying to make her way back from the health centre.

Chairman of the village council Chief Etop Umanah, who conducted reporters round the area, said the pupils drowned following the downpour which led to the river overflowing its bank.

Umanah said it was the custom to wait for the pupils and women at the bank of the river during the schools' closing hours whenever there was downpour.

He explained that it was unfortunate that before the men from the village could get to the river to rescue the

From Kazeem Ibrahim, Uyo

pupils, the water had carried them away.

According to Umanah, the bodies of the pupils were recovered three days after.

He added that in the preceding year three pupils and a pregnant woman died in the same river, noting that as the pupils tried to come back from school, the pregnant woman was trying to make her way back from the health centre.

His words: "This village, Abia-Enyie lost eight children to Atang River this year as they were returning from school following a downpour which aided the river to overflow its bank. Last year, we lost three pupils and a pregnant woman in the same manner.

"The village is one village; it is split by this river. All the facilities of this village - a health centre, a primary and a secondary school are all situated at the other side of the river. We cannot stop the children from going to school."

Speaking during the inspection of some facilities in the rural area, Commissioner of Rural Development Mr. Ekong Sampson told reporters that the Akwa Ibom State government was ready to end the deaths associated with Atang River.

NNS Delta: we'll hunt illegal

his indictment on the na
ve probe? Is it that