

FCT director, five others feared dead in Abuja, Yola floods

THE Director of Finance, Federal Capital Territory High Court, Mr. Tony Okechime, is feared dead after flood swept him away in the aftermath of a downpour in Abuja yesterday.

A similar flood claimed five lives in Yola, the Adamawa State capital.

Okechime and his driver were heading for the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in his official car when they ran into the raging flood and mud at Galadimawa Roundabout, Abuja.

While the driver managed to escape, his boss was unlucky.

After about one hour fighting for his life, Okechime could

■ Onimisi ALAO, Yola ■

no longer cope with the power of the massive water.

Officials of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) who raced to the scene could not save him.

The victims of the Yola flood are believed to be children living in communities around old Yola town.

The Executive Secretary of the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), Dr Muhammed Suleiman, said he was yet to conclude the assessment of the damage by the flood when The Nation called him yesterday

afternoon.

But he said between four and five children might have drowned or swept away in Jambutu and Wurojabe in Yola North Local Government Area and in Yolde Pate in Yola South Local Government Area.

"I wish you can just wait till my team returns from the assessment tour they have embarked on, because I can't be specific now," he said, and promised to speak later in the day after he would have been properly briefed.

The Yola North Transition Committee Chairman, Adamu Wakili, who addressed journalists in his office after an assessment visit to affected commu-

nities in the LGA, described the rain and the flood as unprecedented.

He said: "We have never experienced this one to two hours of intensive rain and heavy flooding before. Many were rendered homeless. We have just seen a tailor shop where three sewing machines were swept away."

He put the number of the dead at three which occurred, according to him, at Jambutu and Wurojabe.

Many families and business owners were displaced following the rain which caused gutters to overflow into homes and business places mostly in Jimeta area of the Adamawa State capital.

The rain had poured heavily on Thursday evening, flooding households in much of Jimeta and Yola town with most streets in Jambutu, Bachure, Wurojabe, Kofare and some other communities becoming rivers of rain swept water and causing massive traffic holdup.

Air Force strikes Boko Haram terrorists in Sambisa, kills scores of insurgents

THE Nigerian Air Force yesterday said it neutralised more terrorists in Alafa, Borno State, while their hideouts have been destroyed by air strikes.

Its spokesman, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said in a statement that the strikes were launched after intelligence platforms had established the presence of the ter-

patched 2 Alpha Jets to attack the location, scoring accurate hits in the target area, which led to the destruction of some of the structures and equipment as well as the killing of

several terrorists.

"The NAF, operating in concert with surface forces, will sustain its operations against the terrorists in the Northeast."

18 LCC employees in police net over all

Eighteen toll collectors

Operations Department carried

were queried and a disciplinary committee was constituted