



# city & crime

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## Floods sweep across, Kwara, Oyo, Niger, Edo, FCT

• Flooded premises of the Court of Appeal, Abuja... yesterday

**T**HE seasonal disaster is here again. From the nation's capital Abuja to Oyo, and from Kwara to Rivers and Edo states, floodwaters submerged homes and workplaces, and damaged bridges and culverts on Wednesday. In Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, a middle-aged man was washed away at Oluyole, in Ibadan South West Local Government Area of the state.

In many parts of the city, scores of people were trapped when bridges and culverts became impassable due to the surging flood. Some people lost their belongings.

Other areas that were affected by the flood are Alaro, Zartech, Oluyole Extension, Idi-Ayunro, Olodo, New Garage, parts of Gbekuba area, Apatu, and Omi Adio, in Ido Local Government Area of the state.

At Alaro, Zartech area of Oluyole Extension, the only bridge that links the people to the city was completely submerged, while many residents were prevented from gaining access to their homes.

The victim of about six hours rain was said to have been washed away by the flood when he attempted to cross a submerged bridge in the Sumal area of Oluyole Industrial Extension.

People were seen around the area early yesterday still searching for the victim.

An eyewitness said efforts of rescuers were undermined by the heavy downpour, as sympathisers were prevented from searching for the victim due to the rising level of water.

The state government has sympathised with the victims of the flood, promising to do everything possible to mitigate such occurrence in the future.

The Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Hon. Kehinde Ayoola who spoke with The

**In many parts of Ibadan, scores of people were trapped when bridges and culverts became impassable due to the surging flood. Some people lost their belongings**

From Osheyee Okwuofu, Ibadan, Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin, John Oikhuena, Abuja, Friday Otorbor, Benin and Justina Asishana, Minna

Nation yesterday on the flood disaster admitted that there were damages to bridges, culverts and roads on Wednesday, but said he was yet to receive any report of the missing person.

"The area you just mentioned, the Alaro area, Oluyole Extension area, yes, there were flashes of flood there and it also happened at Joyce B, at Olodo area of Egbeda, and at an area called Jenriyin, Kute community, in Lagelu Local Government Area. So, we have been there to make an on-the-spot assessment, and we have taken note of what is to be done to the hydrological infrastructure there in those places."

"For example, culverts, bridges and water channels, we have taken note of what the government can do. And we have also appealed to our people that they should stop dropping refuse in waterways, we have also appealed to them not to wade through water floods and they should always evacuate anywhere when there is heavy rain and flood. The government is on top of the situation."

In Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, the rains started around 3pm lasting about four hours and claiming the

life of one Lateefah Adeyemi.

Lateefah was reportedly going to the Maraba motor park when she slipped into the flooded drainage.

The rains resulted in heavy flooding in the metropolis affecting mostly Obbo and Mubo all in the town.

Houses and cars were in the process destroyed, it was gathered.

Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has commiserated with the family of the deceased, assuring them that a search team has been dispatched to look for her and that the administration would ensure that proper steps are taken to ward off such incident in the future.

Residents attributed the floods to poor construction of the Asa drainage.

The governor called on the Federal Government to order contractors handling the

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channelisation of the Asa River in the state back to site, saying the drainage was poorly done and is too narrow to prevent flooding in the areas and loss of human lives and properties.

AbdulRazaq said he had written to the Federal Government about the threats the poor job poses to the people of the state, especially residents of Ilorin.

"This (channelisation) was long awarded. They didn't execute it properly. We have written them a letter that they should come and finish



• The flood in Ibadan... yesterday

flashpoint already identified by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Apart from the various sensitisation campaigns that began with a news briefing in August, officials from the ministry and the Government House have since Monday kickstarted a new sensitisation tour of various areas of the state where flooding is expected.

The nation's capital had its share of the disaster. A number of places were flooded, the Court of Appeal premises severely affected.

In Edo State, the disaster was also felt in homes and public places, disrupting movement and business activities.

In Niger State, there was more havoc. No fewer than 2667 houses and a swathe of farmlands were destroyed across 17 council areas of the state.

## NDLEA arrests seven 'drug barons' in Kwara

From Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin

The NDLEA boss, who said that the arrest and seizure were made between August 14 and September 14, 2019, added that the suspected barons nabbed with cannabis were arrested at Ganmo, Maraba, Oja Iya, Osere; in the Ilorin metropolis, including Omupo, Jebba and Kaiama towns.

He said that one of the suspects, Chukwuemeka Odehokewu Johnson, aka Chuks, was first arrested by the command in 1994, adding that the

command located his drug warehouse and recovered 396 bags of cannabis weighing 4,356kg in 2017 and was declared wanted.

The NDLEA commander also said that the suspect that had been on the watch list was eventually apprehended on August 26, 2019 due to intelligence.

He said that raid carried out on some drug joints at such locations as Ilofa road GRA, Ajikobi, Adewole, Tanke, Maraba motor park, Oko Olowo, Malete and Omupo led to ar-

rest of 19 suspected drug users.

The NDLEA boss said that the warehouses had been sealed, adding that the suspected barons would soon be prosecuted.

"In the ongoing Operation Keep Kwara Drug Free, some people who use drug that were arrested have been counselled and released to their respective families, while seven are currently undergoing care, treatment, and rehabilitation at the state headquarters with a view to reintegrate them to the society", he said.

## Enugu trains vigilance groups

From Chris Oji, Enugu

Commander, Enugu State Neighbourhood Watch, Ernest Ifeme, the exercise is at the instance of Enugu State government, in line with Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi's drive to ensure adequate security across the state.

Speaking at the training venue, Ifeme informed that the training is for the 400 selected

from the 20 wards of Oji River Council Area.

"We are undergoing a 7-day training here to equip us with updated skills on how to function effectively in protecting lives and property of our respective communities, in partnership with the Police and other security agencies."

"The police, SSS and Civil Defense officers are here and we hear that the army will be

here, as well, on a later date. This training phase covers all the 20 wards in Oji River LGA, with 20 neighbourhood men drawn from each ward, totaling 400 of us," he said.

On his part, the Deputy Transport Officer (DTO) in charge of Oji River, DSP Okonkwo, told journalists that the training was aimed at inculcating modern security skills and practices in the trainees.