

# 7-yr-old drowns in Akwa-Ibom flood

INIOBONG EKPONTA - UYO

A seven-year-old boy has drowned following a downpour which destroyed several properties in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

*Nigerian Tribune* learnt that the downpour, which lasted for several hours on Monday, submerged homes and pushed the seven-year-old into drainage, while he was struggling to escape the flood.

Residents said the deceased was struggling to wade through the flood water with his mother and her newborn baby strapped to her back along Akwa Efak area of Uyo metropolis.

Effiong Inyang, a resident of the area, said: "when the mother discovered that her child was drowning, she made frantic efforts to rescue him, but to no avail, because the child had already been trapped in the deep underground drainage system.

"Some bystanders who saw what happened rushed and rescued the woman, who was already unconscious, but the boy could not be retrieved from the deep drainage. His body was however recovered later."

The state Commissioner for Information and Strat-

egies, Dr. Iniobong Essien, who visited the scene, advised residents to be cautious and follow safety rules during heavy rain.

The commissioners sympathised with the family of the victim, assuring that the state government would put necessary safety measures in place to guide road users from straying into open drainages during rainfall.

The government officials said barricades, including wire mesh and iron bars, would be erected on drainages to prevent future occurrences.

"Government is committed to taking proactive measures towards providing safety measures for lives and prop-

erties during this rainy season. and full

"It is, however, important for members of the public thro dow

## 28 suspected kidnappers, arrested in Edo

ABIODUN JIMOH  
- BENIN-CITY

EDO State Police Command, on Tuesday, paraded 28 suspects arrested for various offences across the state.

The command also

showed journalists 10 guns, 15 live ammunition, 32 mobile phones, two cars and other items recovered from the suspects at different locations. and ing con tive eral ris, up niti Th

This was coming barely two weeks after the command recovered 120 guns

