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...CRIME, SECURITY, COURT

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Flood kills pregnant woman, two others in Jos Fisherman found dead inside river, son still missing in Bayelsa

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THREE persons, including a pregnant woman, have been killed by flood that swept through some parts of Zinariya community in Jos, Plateau State, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reported.

The flood, which resulted from days of downpour, also brought down nine houses.

"The incident resulted from narrow waterways; the victims were asleep when the rain started, but with the water soaking up foundations of their buildings, the structures collapsed on them," Sani Bello, a relation of the victims, told *NAN* on Thursday.

According to him, the water washed the bodies of the three deceased away.

"My pregnant elder sis-

ter, who was on a visit from Naraguta, a nearby community, was among the people washed away by the flood.

"We have found her body and buried it. There is also a lady with a broken leg who has been taken to the hospital," he said.

"Another victim, one Ibrahim, who is seven years old, also sustained injuries and has been taken to the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, Senator Istifanus Gyang (PDP/Plateau North) has visited the area to commiserate with the people.

Gyang, who was represented by an aide, Daniel Dem, promised to assist the area with resources to rebuild their homes and map out waterways.

He also offered financial assistance to the affected fami-

lies and urged the community to stop building houses on waterways to avoid a recurrence.

The Ward Head of the community, Mallam Yahaya Abubakar, who received the items, commended the Senator for his show of concern.

"You are the first government official to come to the aid of my community. May God continue to bless you for this kindness," he said.

He regretted the damage caused by perennial flooding in the area, and urged government to take urgent measures to mitigate that.

One of the beneficiaries of Gyang's gesture, Malam Mohammed Kamilu, while appreciating the kindness, said that the money would be of great assistance to the victims.

"Some of the victims lost

practically everything. This assistance will help them to restart life all over again," he said.

In a related development, the remains of a local fisherman, simply identified as Pewo, who was declared missing on Sunday evening when raging storm reportedly struck his boat during a fishing expedition at the Atlantic shore of Brass Island, Bayelsa State, has been found at Brass jetty.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the deceased, a 43-year-old fisherman who hailed from Ogbokiri community, was with his son when the raging storm struck his boat. His son, Erogbanjon Pewo, who was with him at the time of incident had not been found.

It was further learnt that the fisherman and his miss-

ing son were believed to have drowned in the river due to the rising tide and high current of the ocean, said to be a natural phenomenon during raining season in the area.

The missing boy was said to be one of the six children of the deceased.

Confirming the incident, youth leader of Sangana fish town, Akassa clan, Kune Johnbull said the heavy storm that killed fisherman also destroyed some structures and properties in the communities.

According to him, "the storm even affected our roofs and caused panic in the community. During this period of June/July, the sea is usually very rough and there's no other option because fishing is the only source of our livelihood.

"The deceased and his

son went fishing before the deadly stormy sea struck. Some persons, despite the rough sea, still paddle their canoe tactically so that they can feed their families, while some try their luck by the river bank.

"The last case we recorded was some years back when two of my friends who went fishing got missing. After some days they were found but we were able to revive them.

"This particular case is so pathetic because we haven't even seen the young boy. After several attempts by several persons, it was just the man we saw."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Asimin Butswat said the command had yet to receive any information on the incident.

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