

② Flood sweeps away man in Anambra, as govt alerts communities at risk

Michael Ovat | Awka

A man whose identity is yet to be ascertained was on Tuesday swept away by flood at Oye market in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State.

The body of the victim, described as a stout man by some persons in the market, was still missing as of the time of filing in this the report on Wednesday.

A source who spoke with the *Nigerian Tribune* on condition of anonymity, said the man mistakenly stepped into a drainage in front of the market during a downpour and was swept away by the flood.

The source said: "The man

was swept away by flood at Nimo market and his body is yet to be found.

"It happened when it was raining in the area. The man unknowingly stepped inside the drainage at the market and the flood carried him away."

Meanwhile, the state government has urged people residing in flood-prone areas to take appropriate steps in view of impending flooding so as to save lives and properties.

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Christian Aburime, in a statement, said "it is time to take proactive measures and be fully at alert."

The statement reads: "As the annual release of excess water from Cameroon's

Lagdo Dam is upon us, there is a looming threat of severe flooding that could endanger lives, homes and livelihoods in vulnerable areas in Nigeria.

"It is crucial to be aware, be informed and be prepared in the face of this potential disaster."

It added that, "Last year's catastrophic incident served as a painful reminder of the destructive power of these floods, as many communities in our state experienced unprecedented destruction and losses.

"To this end, a special flood committee led by the Deputy Governor, Dr Onyekachukwu Ibezim, has since set in motion the contingency plans and risk management mech-

anisms.

"Already, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has sent early warnings to all the people living in riverside and flood-prone areas to immediately relocate to the safe internally displaced peoples (IDP) camps provided by Governor Soludo.

"Specifically, Ndi Anambra residing in usually affected local government areas such as Ogbaru, Ayamelum, Anambra East and West, Onitsha North and South, Awka North, Idemmili South, Ekwusigo and Ihiala, have been duly advised to relocate without further delay," it said.