

NEWS

Okada rider swept away, 200 people displaced as flood wreaks havoc in Lagos

• Govt postpones planned traffic diversion on Third Mainland Bridge
• Motorists, passengers stranded at Mile2

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with Agency Reports

NQ fewer than 200 residents of Orile Agege area of Lagos State have been displaced by flood following a downpour in the early hours of Saturday. While it was gathered that no casualty was recorded as of the time of this report, a motorcycle rider was not lucky as he was said to have been swept into a canal along the Ile Epo area of the community by flood resulting from the downpour.

Sunday Tribune gathered that the rain, which started around 2:00 a.m., did not subside until noon, flooding many homes and streets in many locations across the metropolis. The flood brought vehicular movements along the metropolis to a standstill for many hours as car owners were forced to park their vehicles with the hope the rain would subside.

As the rain increased, flood found its way into people's houses, destroying valuables as many of the affected residents were seen combing the flood to salvage their valuables.

Speaking with **Sunday Tribune**, some of the residents lamented that losing valuables to the flood was not part of what they bargained for today, adding that it would be difficult to retrieve any of their valuables that had been swept away or destroyed by the flood.

Speaking with **Sunday Tribune**, one of the affected residents, Ibrahim Muftau, blamed uncompleted drainage and road projects in the location for the effect of the flood, adding that the drainage project, which started from Kusoro Street to Funmilayo Street and Papa Ashafa road is yet to be completed.

"If the road and the drainage project had been completed, maybe we wouldn't be having this kind of flood," he lamented.

Muftau, who lived in Fashola Street of Orile Agege, said that more than 11 communities housing over 200 houses within the vicinity were affected by the flood.

While speaking about the incident, the Zonal Coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Ibrahim Farinloye, confirmed the name of the motorcycle rider swept into a canal as Mr Abe.

Farinloye said that the rider was swept off after refusing to heed the warnings from his colleagues not to ride close to the Ile Epo Bus-stop canals in the area as the downpour increased.

He said that the incident occurred around 10.30 a.m. and the victim had yet to be recovered as of the time he was speaking.

He explained that NEMA and other emergency agencies are on assessment exercises at some flash points, while discussing with affected populations and proffering immediate solutions in handling the situations.

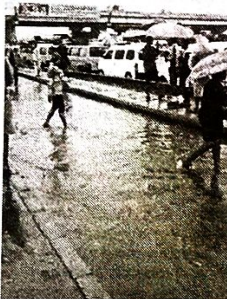
He disclosed that some vulnerable groups had moved to temporary safe facilities while the adults have been salvaging their water impacted properties.

"NEMA is assisting the owner of a building that the fence collapsed and the need to salvage the building by reconstruction of the fence to solidify the base to prevent it collapsing on the next bungalow building," Farinloye said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of motorists and passengers going to Mile 2 were stranded as a result of the flood which disrupted free movement on the trade fair and Abule-Ado axis of Lagos-Badagry Ex-



Stranded residents during the downpour at Mile2 area of Lagos State on Saturday.

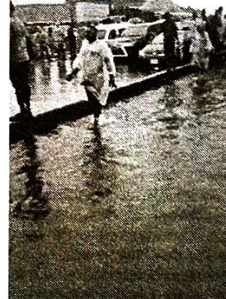


pressway.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that flooding from the downpour blocked the trade fair axis, temporarily impeding movement of vehicles on the expressway.

NAN also reports that the rainfall, which started at 5.00 a.m and continued for hours, forced many passengers to come down from commercial vehicles and resort to trekking from Abule-Ado to Barracks in Ojo.

Some passengers and motorists urged the state government to clear the drainage to avert the flood. A trader in Ebute-Aro, Lagos Island, said that the flood had prevented her from going to open her



shop.

Another passengers trying to cross from one side of Lagos Badagry expressway to the other during the downpour on Saturday.

"The flood has completely blocked the expressway, some vehicles that tried to access the road had been trapped in the flood.

"The drainage is blocked by plastics and nylon preventing the passage of the water.

"Lagos government should wake up to its responsibility and clear the drainage, they should also warn the traders against indiscriminate dumping of refuse.

"I have to go back home now because it is dangerous

to force your way in there due to the flood," she said.

In a related development, hundreds of motorists and passengers going to Mile 2 were on Saturday stranded as flood disrupted free movement on the trade fair and Abule-Ado axis of Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

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Mrs Ibrinke Adegboyega, a trader in Ebute-Aro, Lagos Island, said that the flood had prevented her from going to open her shop.

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Lagos postpones planned traffic diversion on Third Mainland Bridge

Due to the downpour experienced in all parts of the Metropolis on Saturday, the state government has announced the postponement of the planned two-week palliative works on the failed sections of the 3rd Mainland Bridge, which was scheduled for today and September 27, 2023.

In a statement by the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, the State government explained that the rain has affected the preliminaries of the planned palliative works on the asphalt pavement of the bridge by the Lagos State Public Works Corporation.

Assuring that a later date which will be subject to weather conditions will be duly communicated.