

Teenage brothers drown in Ondo river after downpour

Hakeem Gbadamosi | Akure

TWO teenage brothers, on Tuesday, drowned in a river known as Omileye in Ore, headquarters of Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State, after a downpour which caused the river to overflow.

The siblings were reportedly swept away while attempting to cross the river on their way home from the summer class, after visiting their father's mechanic workshop to wait for the rain.

It was gathered that the two boys had waited for hours for the rain to stop in their father's workshop before heading home after it had subsided.

A source in the area explained that the boys left the mechanic workshop when the rain stopped, but unaware that the flood had swept off the bridge.

The source said: "it rained all day. It was a terrible day. The father of the boys became worried when he returned home and did not find them; he then organised a search party.

"The search party, after hours of searching, discovered the lifeless bodies of the two boys at different points along the riverbank, trapped in debris,"

The development threw the community into mourn-

ing following the discovery of the bodies.

Many of the residents lamented over the lack of adequate infrastructure to prevent the incident, noting that the river had been a death trap for a long time, with the absence of a standard footbridge.

"Every rainy season, this river becomes a threat. We've complained on several occasions. Government must wake up before more lives are lost," a resident of the community said.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Olayinka Ayanlade, said the incident had not yet been formally reported to any police division.

He, however, assured that the command would act swiftly.

"We are not aware of the incident yet, but we will ensure a detective is dispatched to investigate," Ayanlade said.

The death of the two boys renewed calls for the Ondo State government and relevant emergency agencies to take urgent steps to address infrastructure gaps in flood-prone communities.

Residents are demanding improved drainage systems, early warning mechanisms, and the construction of safe pedestrian bridges across rivers and canals.