

Death Trap Jetty: Bonny People Cry Out For Help

The people of Bonny in Bonny Local Government area of Rivers state are crying out for help over the remains of a rickety landing jetty situated at creek road which serve as the only recognized commercial take-off point from Port Harcourt to Bonny.

The dilapidated jetty has been described as a death trap waiting patiently for who to consume. Regrettably, in spite the state of the jetty, repeated calls by the people of the area on the governor of the state, Rt. Hon. Chibuke Rotimi Amaechi, NDDC and relevant agencies to intervene and ameliorate the sufferings of thousands of people that flock the area daily to travel has continued to fall on deaf ears.

A notable politician who craved anonymity spoke to the, according to him "the problem why the jetty is still lingering is lack of unity; if the Bonny traditional institution, the highly placed Bonny politicians in government, elites and well meaning Bonny individuals including youths come together to demand for a new jetty it will be achieved. The polarity in the kingdom is stalling development and until such a time we decide to

move forward in the interest of progress and unity we might be in for more set backs.

According to an outspoken youth leader from the area who is also the Public Relations Officer of National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN rivers state chapter, Kingsley Adonis Pepple in his remark said, "efforts made in the past to change this situation were fruitless. I remember the last effort we made thru Bonny Island Foundation, we brought 'Tori for Town' (a popular talk show in pidgin English) to make public our plight. I fear that a latent cause of this is the notion that our people ate the money originally earmarked for the project. Another issue of note is that some of the leaders in Bonny all use Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG boat and as such, not even aware of what their followers suffer. Even as we cry for help, because they do not experience same; hence our plea falls on deaf ears. Our leaders are complacent.

Pepple also spoke on the lingering Bomu/Bonny road saying, "as youths we have always said the road will bring a lot of respite to Bonny people, however that itself has lingered for too long. We found out that the former



A dilapidated jetty, a disaster waiting to happen

contractor handling the project lacked capacity to deliver and so the National Youth Council Chapters of Bonny and Gokhana

the governor should have provided a makeshift arrangement to at least cushion the effect of hardship suffered by the people.



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Man Falls To Death From Eight Floor Days To Wedding

Staff and various agencies occupying the Federal Secretariat Complex Port Harcourt, were amazed to find in the early hour of Tuesday October 9, that a man in his early 40's had taken a plunge from the eighth floor.

Swift emergency efforts to revive him failed as he gave up the ghost.

The man identified as Mr. Amaewhule Lucky from nearby Rumukalgor village is a landlord and was billed to remarry this Saturday. He lost his first wife to death, a close source revealed.

The cause of his fall was not known as at press time but security personnel and food-peddlers and recharge cards sellers around the complex informed this publication that the deceased was not a staff of any of the ministries in the complex, they said an identity card discovered from his pocket showed him to be a staff of Total Elf.

When this reporter visited the controller of works/housing in the complex, the official directed referred him to the controller Lands/Housing and Urban Development who explained he was not around when the incident took place.

According to him, the Elekahia Police has taken over the matter.

He said such a tragedy has not happened in the over 30 years that the secretariat has been in

Stories by James Galaxy Nornubari

existence.

The official said the incident took place very early, at about 08.00 hours in the morning when some staff were still on their way to the office and he has no knowledge of the man's name or his place of work since he was not present when the incident occurred.

The Land/Housing and Urban Development controller further advised staff and visitors to the complex to be watchful in order to avoid such disasters in future even as he suggested the erection of hand rails to avoid falls in future pointing out however, that the structural design of the complex might not go well with such an appendage.

The deceased was at the premises of the National Directorate of Employment, NDE on the 8th floor from where he crashed to the ground.

Sources said the NDE offices were still closed at the time he fell. It is strongly believed he committed suicide although there was no evidence of a suicide note nor clear sign of what was ailing him.

More confounding was the fact that there was the sum of about N50,000 in his pocket at the time the police came in to take his body away.

jointly held a press conference and called for the re-award of the contract and I am happy to announce to you that President Jonathan has done so, already"

The leader of Bonny Youth Federation, Gift Furo Hart said, "As civilized people we have explored the right channels to make government to listen to us but all to no avail. We are now left with the option of mass mobilization and protest to government. A responsible government should listen to the plight of its people and so far the Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi administration is nothing short of responsible, he should lay claim to this by doing the right thing for the Bonny jetty."

Anderson Hart who also hails from the area disclosed that two years ago when he interviewed the governor, he said the area falls within his "Urban Renewal Plan" which indicates that he has no plan to replace the jetty. However, said

Ngo Hailsham, a trader stated, "It is deeply sad not only to know that an oil rich state like our Rivers State is grossly blighted by poor infrastructures till date. Most worrisome is the fact that even basic common amenities like most of our roads, boarding jetties at the waterfronts of our coastal communities are never regularly maintained. This definitely speaks of the depth of decay of commitment at the highest level of governance which further buttresses the point that our corruption on maintenance culture is at its peak to say the very least. Considering the huge allocation[s] due the state each month, the Rivers people indeed deserve the best! Let the authorities learn to act right and promptly if service would remain the face of good governance perhaps like the present leadership in power

A medical practitioner and lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt, Dr Josiah Hart wants the

people to look deeper. "It's well to criticize the state government but have we made real enquiries about why the government keeps quiet about the state of the jetty? Severally the government has asked us to go back home and make enquiries about the jetty. 'Our own' knows about it I have been told. If we cannot hold 'our own' accountable then we are doomed. I agree absolutely that officials and Reps from Bonny have done little more than 'whiting the sepulchre' when it comes to development in and around Bonny. I shake my head for the concept of leadership as our 'leaders' conceive it".

Charles Dan Jumbo on his part said, "Maybe the governor plans to relocate the jetty to Mini Okoro who knows? All I can say is God's time is the best, Hausa held the right of every Nigerian for over three decades until God intervened. I remember very well that names like Melford Okilo, Maxwell Amadi, Eric Aso, Ken Green, F.K Agara, Pere Ajuwa, Chief Ake, Dagogo Jack, Rufus Ada George, among others, were colossal names of the 70's-90's yet some of their families couldn't afford a burial. Today most have sold all their belongings and some are still on sale - the way the cookie crumbles. So if they think that the monies they save in the moon or castles they build will save them, they need to get their head re-examined"

John Jamaica, a resident who plies the route steadily simply said, "I believe Gov Amaechi intends to demolish the entire waterside where the jetty is situated. So I think the best thing will be to relocate the jetty to somewhere else. Let them find a better location that is not under any kind of dispute and build a permanent and suitable jetty that is befitting and safe for everyone to use."

For Hart Lawson, The route to Bonny is a great embarrassment to we the people and to our leaders, Representatives, spoke's person's etc, a Very BIG SHAME!!!! We only see some better side as a result of the companies in Bonny. Nothing more has come to Bonny from our state Government unlike most Rivers LGA. Please some thing has to been done about this. Its not right, yes we don't have motor able road. That doesn't mean the commercial take off point to Bonny should look like we are journeying to a Rebel Camp or fishing Port. At least we should set a pace, the Bille Loading Point close to Bonny is far better than ours. The World is watching. Bonny deserves Better cause she is filled of God given Pride. Bonny Youth Federation Leader, BYF I believe you know what to do. The Bonny Marine transport Association has been managing to maintain the Collapse And Scrappy Bonny Port Harcourt Jetty, however the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria on their part has failed to lift the eyes of the Rivers state Government on this jetty; it is so awkward that the only commercial jetty leading to our beautiful island looks like this, as youth I think we have to redirect the eyes of our leaders and government towards the dualization of this jetty being the only commercial route to ply to the island from Port Harcourt.

Lionel Opuada in his remark said, "a Bonny man is the Commissioner for Transport in the state for about 5yrs and still counting yet Bonny has the worst Transportation system in the state, Gov' Amaechi has done a lot of federal projects and yet our so called representatives in government cannot convince him to intervene on the jetty - May God help us."

Kidnapped Expatriate Found Dead Around Rivers State Governor's Town

An expatriate engineer kidnapped at Ipo village near Omagwa in Ikwerre Local Government of Rivers State some weeks ago, is dead. His remains were according to sources from the area, found around the Rivers State governor's home town Ubima, close to Ozuaha village abandoned in a bus.

The Lebanese, a staff of JMS Int'l was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in Ipo village on September 24, 2012 and held until his corpse was discovered at

Ubima in a decomposed state in a bus left by the road side.

National Point was informed that security operatives had raided villages around Ipo, Omagwa, Omuanwa all in Ikwerre in search of the abducted foreigner but barely few days after the search, his captors dumped his remain along the road.

The late site engineer, Makmound's body has been deposited at the Military Hospital, Port Harcourt while unconfirmed sources say his office is planning to

invite a medical team to conduct an autopsy to ascertain the nature of his death.

A community member from the area told this publication that they were surprised when the security operatives stormed Omuanwa community in search of the kidnappers only to learn later that the kidnappers had shifted base a few days earlier. He accused the security of complicity.

"Who told them the security men were coming? When the search party came we discovered evidence of foreign food meaning

he was being kept around the area but they must have been warned to move", he said.

The kidnappers are still unknown but believed to be within Ikwerre communities.

Saddened by the death of the expatriate, security operatives in Rivers State have been flayed for failing to fish at the brains behind the wicked act.

Some are asking where the camera implanted by the state government to fight crime in the state is in the face of the daily security challenges in the state.