

Four die in Ekiti floods

A motorcyclist and three other persons were feared dead in the Ekiti State capital, Ado-Ekiti, on Thursday night, following floods that accompanied a five-hour downpour.

The heavy rain, which started around 4pm and lasted well into the night, also led to some houses being submerged in flood in some parts of the town.

It was learnt that the bike rider, suspected to be a commercial operator, was swept off with his passen-

gos-Benin road — Official

The Federal Road Safety Commission in Edo State had made repeated appeals for the repair of the failed portions of the road.

The Sector Commander, Mr. Sam Obayemi, said the commission had written a number of letters to FERMA on the state of the road, lamenting, however, that the agency had declined to re-

Adesina Wahab, Ado-Ekiti
ger at Ajilosun area of the town.

He was heading towards Ikere Road, when the flood swept him and his passenger off at the swamp close to the Ajilosun Shopping Complex.

According to eyewitnesses, it was another bike rider coming behind him that drew the attention of people to what happened but little could be done as there was no power supply and the place was in darkness.

spond to the correspondences.

He said that of particular concern to the commission was the area around Ovia River, which had led to many fatal accidents.

He said between January and August this year, more than 65 people died in road accidents on the failed portions of the expressway.

A corpse was later found at Oke Bola area of the town on Friday morning, but no one could identify it.

Another person was reportedly swept away at Ojumose area.

The State Secretary of the Alliance for Democracy, Chief Abiodun Fasae, related his experience to our correspondent, saying he was trapped for four hours by flood while going back home.

He accused the state government of not clearing blocked drains and paying little attention to widening narrow ones.

Another casualty was simply identified as Sunday, a driver in the employ of the state government.

He reportedly fell into a ditch at Irona Area of while going home after the day's work.

His remains were later found on Friday morning by his relatives who deposited the corpse at the State Specialist Hospital, Ado-Ekiti.

Also, at Ijoka area, a storey buliding collapsed, injuring some people but nobody was killed.

Speaking on the incident, the Director of Fire Service, Mr. Joel Idowu, said his men were called that a bike rider was swept by the flood at Ajilosun Area at about 8.30pm on Thursday and that a search conducted till late in the night yielded no result.

He noted that it was early Friday that his men, joined by officials of the State Emergency Management Agency, recovered the corpse of the cyclist and later deposited it at the hospital.

hunts holders of proxy passports

Olayinka Oyeboode

The CGI, according to the statement, has also ordered an immediate investigation into the matter and a subsequent disciplinary action against Passport Control Officers who were involved in the issuance of standard passports by proxy to applicants.

According to the statement, the detection of the passport is made possible through forensic analyses carried out at the modern gadgets installed at the Airport by NIS.

Udeh explained that 34 of the withdrawn passports were issued at the Bauchi passport office, while 24

were issued at Katsina.

Other indicted passport offices are, Ikoyi, Festac, Lokoja, Kano, Lafia, Ado-Ekiti, Benin, Ibadan, Yola, Abakaliki, Yenegoa and the Nigerian mission in Dublin, Ireland.

King emphasized the importance of the standard passport as a national security document pointing out that if issued wrongly, could be used for human trafficking, fraud, drugs and for terrorism.

He also enjoined prospective passport applicants to always insist on due process when procuring travel document.