

usually converge on the area. Some of them will even
was admitted to confirmed to our correspondent shortly before the operation that the

counts of murder.

• Ifeoluwa; Abraham

Police Con

Photos: Afeez Hanafi

Five-year-old, couple drown

Olaleye Aluko

A five-year-old girl and a couple have drowned in an uncovered canal at the Ewekoro end of the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Ogun State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the little girl, identified as Aliyah Hussein, was returning from Abeokuta with her parents penultimate Sunday when she and her mother slipped on the edge of the canal and fell into it.

Our correspondent gathered that a yet-to-be-identified couple also drowned last Monday in the canal, as residents of Ewekoro lamented the failure of the state authorities to put a slab on the open part of the canal and guard it with iron bars so that pedestrians would not fall into it.

When PUNCH Metro visited the area on Thursday, Aliyah's father, Oseni, said his family was returning from Abeokuta when it rained heavily in the area and caused a traffic gridlock.

Oseni added that his wife was seriously injured, and

would also have died but for the quick intervention of other pedestrians who struggled to pull her out.

Oseni, who described his deceased daughter as his joy, said the management of a cement factory in the area, who reportedly dug the canal, did not show sympathy to his family.

He said, "The incident happened around 8pm on Sunday. We were in a bus coming from Abeokuta when it started raining and there was a heavy traffic so we decided to take motorcycles to Ifo where we lived.

"I got a motorcycle to Papa and left while my wife, our first son and Aliyah also took a motorcycle. Aliyah was asleep so my wife carried her on her back. When we got to the canal, the motorcyclist's hands were unstable because of the flood and my wife alighted from the motorcycle.

"The motorcyclist rode his bike to the other side of the road and my wife and daughter were attempting to cross the road to meet him when she slipped on the

uncovered part of the canal and fell. There is an open part of the canal, which is supposed to be covered and guarded with iron bars but has been neglected. My wife did not see it because of the flood.

"It was our first child who observed that my wife and

daughter had fallen into the canal and he immediately raised the alarm. When people rallied round them, they were able to pull out my wife, but we did not see Aliyah again.

"We continued searching for her till Monday. She was found dead on Monday



• Aliyah