

One drowns as flood washes away Ekiti bridge

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• The Ureje Bridge

Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti

Flood wreaked havoc on Ado Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital, on Monday, following a downpour, which lasted for several hours.

One person reportedly drowned after a portion of the Ureje Bridge linking Ado Ekiti with the Federal Polytechnic and the Afe Babalola University collapsed due to flooding.

Sources said the flood swept away four persons but three of them were rescued.

A resident of the area, Mr Sunday Akomolafe, said, “The deceased and three women were coming to Ado Ekiti and wanted to navigate through the water, only for them to be overwhelmed by flood.

“Three of them were rescued and taken to hospital, but the man was not that lucky; he drowned in the water and his corpse was recovered around 8am.”

Vehicular and human movements were hindered till the early hours of Tuesday as people waited for the water, which rose above the bridge, to recede.

Commuters to ABUAD; the Federal Polytechnic, Ikare Akoko, and those coming to the state capital had to park their vehicles and wait for several hours for the water to recede before they could move on.

Other parts of Ado Ekiti badly hit by the flood were Eminrin, Omisanjana, Egbewa and Olorunsogo.

The state Deputy Governor, Chief Bisi Egbeyemi, who visited the Ureje Bridge, appealed for calm, saying the state government would ensure that it was put back in shape.

The Special Adviser to Governor Kayode Fayemi on Road Transport and Infrastructure, Sunday Adunmo, said the collapsed section of the bridge would be fixed in few hours.

Adunmo stated, “We are embarking on palliative works till the dry season when the road will be awarded. What we need here is a new bridge that can accommodate more water. A 60×60 bridge is no longer fashionable. We are piling stones and granites on the collapsed lane.

“We are going to open one lane for motorists to use pending the time that the palliative measures will end so that we will put the second lane back. The single lane is going to be for light vehicles, because we are going to mount restrictions.”

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Caleb Ikechukwu, confirmed the death, saying, “Yes, I can confirm to you that one man died after he drowned in flood water. His corpse has been recovered and deposited in the mortuary.”