

Abuja flood victim didn't listen to warning, says eyewitness

Published August 31, 2020



File :Flooding

Adelani Adepegba, Abuja

The Federal Capital Territory Emergency Management Agency has recovered the body of one Garba Joseph, 43, who was swept away by flood on Thursday.

The corpse was recovered by FEMA's search and rescue team after a two-day search from a flooded river around Trade Moore Estate, Lugbe, in Abuja.

An eyewitness and a FEMA volunteer, Kenneth Chima, who captured the incident on video, said the deceased failed to heed warnings asking him not to venture into the water.

He said, "They were four men that tried walking through the water and I kept warning them to go back; three of them went back, but only this man (Joseph) insisted on crossing. Unfortunately, the water overpowered him and swept him away."

The Director-General of FEMA, Alhaji Idriss Abbas, said attitudinal change was key to reducing disasters to the barest minimum in the FCT.

Abas decried the increasing rate of flooding in the FCT, which he attributed to residents' apathy towards government's directives and warnings.

“This is also despite FEMA's consistent sensitisations based on Nigerian Metrological Agency and Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency's predictions of torrential rainfall and dangers of flooding,” he added.

Meanwhile, a combined team of FEMA, National Emergency Management Agency and other response services have successfully rescued the three trapped occupants of a truck loaded with beverage products that crashed into a residential building in Madala in the early hours of Saturday.

The victims, who sustained varying degrees of injury, were taken to the Zuba General Hospital for treatment.