

transfer of the case to the state Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department for discreet investigation and prosecution.

market to buy some things. After they did, the woman asked the son to wait for her in the car so that she could go and pack the remaining

and started driving. "He managed to engage the gear on drive, but forgot to use the brake. That was how he hit Tuale. While

the N400,000, which the Delta State indigene borrowed to buy goods in the market, was stolen while she was being extricated from

hospital, where doctors battled to save her life. "When the accident happened, she was stuck in a gas cylinder, and

LUTH later said they wanted to perform a surgery on her. A day after the surgery, she became unstable and they called my dad to ask if he could afford the ICU,

suspect, Chukwu-Eneke Ogoona and Olabode Kehinde, who were arrested separately, were members of a syndicate that specialised in selling fake phones to buyers.

state after convincing them on the online platform, and fraudulently collect money from the intending buyers after showing them the real phones, which they would later

Confusion trails drowning of two in Lagos flood

Olurwatosisin Onojuyigbo

OFFICIALS of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, on Sunday, continued the search for two residents said to have been swept away by flood at Oyebanjo Solarin Street, in the Ketu area of the state.

PUNCH Metro, however, gathered that neither the agency nor residents of the area could ascertain the identities of the victims.

While some residents told our correspondent that the victims were a father and his child, others said they were young ladies.

LASEMA claimed in a statement that the two missing persons were children, adding that the agency

received distress calls about the incident around 8pm on Saturday.

The statement read in part, "The agency received distress calls and on arrival at the scene of the incident, it was discovered that around 8pm on Saturday, two children had been swept away by the flood.

"A joint team of responders comprising LASEMA, Lagos Fire Service and LASAMBUS were at the scene. The agency's Tiger Team commenced a search-and-rescue operation along the path of the floodwater. Initial observations revealed a sloping topography with a direct channel of drain water into the canal. This has proved to be rather challenging to navigate."

In a follow-up statement,

LASEMA said it extended the search for the victims to around 500-metre radius of the canal and was also enlightening the residents of the area on the effects of flooding on their property.

The statement read in part, "The agency's response team, led by the Director of Operations, Mr Olatunde Akinsanya, during a more stringent search, extended the search to about 500-metre radius of the canal way, but the two children have yet to be found.

"However, aside the extended radius and inquiries around the neighbourhood about the missing children, the agency is conducting public enlightenment on flooding and its dangerous repercussions to

the residents and their property.

"LASEMA also commenced sensitisation in the entire area on the need to desist from, and resist the urge to dispose their domestic and bodily waste in the drainage systems, as it leads to blockage of the canal and water flow, which causes environmental degradation, flooding and eventually leads to disasters, such as death or missing persons, and collapsed buildings."

Our correspondent, who visited the area on Sunday, spoke to some residents, who gave various accounts about the incident.

One Temitope Adekoya, who claimed to have seen the victims while they were struggling in the floodwater, said they were swept away before other residents could get to the canal to rescue them.

She stated, "The rain started around 8pm and it was much and people could not pass through and those, who tried to pass through the canal took a big risk. It was God who saved a boy as he was going

ahead of his family members and almost drowned but for the quick intervention of a lady, quickly pulled him out.

"Around 8.30pm, as we were waiting for the water to go down in front of my shop, we saw two hands raised and two persons struggling in the water; we saw that one of them had a nylon on her head while the second one was using her hand to wade through the water; so, we ran to see if could rescue them, but the water current was too much and they got swept away. The victims were two female adults."

Another resident, Oladipo Omoneyin, however, told our correspondent that nobody had come to look for any missing person in the area and no residents of the area had complained of looking for their children.

He said, "I learnt that flood swept away some kids and when LASEMA came, they started searching but didn't find anything, so I left the scene and waited for my friend, who



• The canal

used to park his car in my compound before crossing the canal. When he came, he had to wait a while for the water to go down before he could pass and when he enter the canal, the water still got to his waist.

"I went to the canal again this morning with the mindset that I would see the corpses of the victims, but I didn't see anything and I'm still hoping that no one gets drowned and the beautiful part of it is that we have not seen any parent, sibling or guardian report that they are looking for anybody, because I think if anybody has lost a child or ward,

they should have come to look for them around the canal area.

"The state of the canal is terrible than the way it was before and we assert that the contractor is working at a very slow pace. He said the construction would be completed

Man, 22, nabbed for a sodomising brothers in

Olaiye Oyelunde, Katsina

A 22-year-old man, Abubakar Ashiru, is in the custody of the Katsina State Police Command for allegedly sodomising two brothers, who are minors.

Ashiru of the Galadimchi Quarter, Katsina, was alleged to have engaged in anal sex with the victims aged eight and nine.

The victims' father, Hashimu Umar, reported the incident at the Central Police Station, Katsina.

He alleged that Ashiru lured the boys into his room, where perpetrated the act on July 13, 2020.

The police said Ashiru confessed to have carried out the act during interrogation.

A charge of unnatural offence has been slammed on the suspect contrary to Section 255 of the Katsina State Penal Code.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant Lawal Bello, told the Katsina Senior Magistrates' Court where Ashiru was arraigned that investigation was still in progress in the case and requested a new date when the case would come up for mention.

The presiding magistrate, Hajija Fadile Dikko, granted the request and adjourned the case till October 7, 2020, for mention.

She ordered that the suspect be remanded in police custody till then.

Meanwhile, a 33-year-old man, Abubakar Abdullahi, has also been remanded in police custody till

Our injured as Delta building collapses



• Some of the collapsed building. Daniel Olorun said that the collapse of the building was a result of structural defects.

He stated, "We got a call about a building collapse in Olowe this evening (Saturday) and we came here and discovered that the local government chairman had swung into action by mobilising everyone to rescue those trapped.

"We gathered that thunder accompanied by lightning struck and that made the building as collapse.

"That could play a role in the collapse, but the structural work of the building is very poor.

"Five persons were trapped and we were able to rescue all of them; they are now receiving treatment in hospital; only one person is confirmed dead. As we leave here, we are going to hospital to know the condition of the injured."

The Chairman of the local government council, Mr Uche Osedebe, attributed the collapse of the building to structural defects and lack of professional expertise.

He said, "My observation here is that there is a structural defect and that led to the collapse of this building. People should always employ the services of professionals and get building approval before commencing development. From what I saw here,

there was no building approval.

"Now, we have lost a soul and those who are in hospital, we don't if they are going to survive because of the severity of the injuries they sustained."

Policeman shot, two passengers killed in Kogi highway

Gbenga Odogun, Lokoja

TWO persons were killed by suspected armed robbers while a police officer sustained gunshot injuries on the Okene-Lokoja Expressway on Saturday.

The incident occurred around 6pm in Osara, between Itakpe and the Kabba junction, and forced drivers to abandon their vehicles, while travellers were left stranded on the road.

An eyewitness told our

correspondent on Sunday in Lokoja that the two persons, who lost their lives, were siblings of Ebira extraction, who were resident in Katsina State.

They were said to be on their way back to their station after visiting Okene when their vehicle was attacked at Osara, a few kilometres to Lokoja.

One of the travellers, who escaped the attack, said she got to her Lokoja residence in the early hours of Sunday.

The woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that she boarded the vehicle from Lagos, where she had been since the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown, adding that they encountered heavy vehicular traffic between Berger in Lagos and Ibadan, Oyo State.

She added that the situation was further compounded after the attack as the vehicle in which they were travelling developed a mechanical fault.