

Oyetola laments as Osun flood sweeps away three, destroys houses, shops

Bola Bamigbola 5 August 2021

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Three corpses were recovered from different parts of Osogbo and Erin Osun, Osun State, on Wednesday, as flood ravaged some parts of the towns after four hours of rainfall.

The rain, which started in most parts of the state capital late on Tuesday, did not abate until early on Wednesday and caused the destruction of many properties.

Two corpses were recovered at Oke Ijetu and Oke Oniti areas of Osogbo, while some buildings were destroyed in many parts of the town.

At the Rasco, Obate, Atimowa, Testing Ground, Awosuru, Oke Ayepe and Ita Olokan areas, several roadside shops were destroyed and many residential buildings and business premises flooded.

During visits to some of the affected areas, many residents and shop owners were seen counting their losses, while others were salvaging their wares recovered from the flood.

The perimeter fence of the Osun State Government House, Oke Fia, Osogbo, also caved in, while the rail line at the Powerline area was affected by the flooding.

A resident of Oke Ayepe, who gave his name simply as Shehu and claimed to have witnessed the evacuation of the corpse of a woman from the Okooko stream, told *PUNCH Metro* that the dangling body was discovered in between two palm trees by some Muslims when they wanted to pray in the afternoon.

He stated, "We immediately called the NSCDC office located not far away after we discovered the body.

"The NSCDC personnel came and were joined by volunteers to recover the corpse. I learnt that some relations of the deceased also came to identify her."

At the Oke Oniti area, another corpse was recovered by local volunteers, who were monitored by the police and men of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps.

Similarly, at Oke Awesin, Erin Osun, a resident, who was returning home on a motorcycle, drowned in the Awesin stream, which was said to have overflowed its banks.

The Inurin of Erin-Osun, Chief Olawuyi Adeleke, confirmed the motorcyclist's death, but said there was no flooding in the town.

The Public Relations Officer of the NSCDC in the state, Daniel Adigun, said two corpses were recovered in Osogbo.

The state Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Funke Egbemode, in a statement called for calm and assured the victims that the government was already assessing the impact of the incident.

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The statement read in part, "The government has activated its emergency response system, comprising stakeholders in disaster management, environmental management officers, health workers and security agents to respond efficiently to the incident where necessary."

Governor Adegboyega Oyetola sympathised with residents over the adverse effects of the flood.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ismail Omipidan, on Wednesday, said Oyetola also gave an assurance that the government would forestall future occurrence of the ugly incident.

The statement said Oyetola, who spoke during the inspection of some of the affected areas, also urged residents to stop indiscriminate refuse disposal as it had been established that such incidents were usually caused by drainage and waterway blockage.

He sympathised with victims and pledged that necessary steps would be taken to address the situation as relevant agencies, including emergency response and disaster management teams, had been contacted.

Addressing residents of Alie community in the Olorunda Local Government Area of the state, Oyetola called for attitudinal change to environment management.

He was quoted as saying, "I went round to see things for myself and I've seen that the damage is much. We have seen areas requiring intervention like dredging activities. This, we will attend to with immediate effect. I sympathise with the residents of the various communities troubled by flood. The rain was indeed torrential, and that informed our tour around the capital city to assess the impact."

Meanwhile, Senator Ajibola Basiru of the Osun Central Senatorial District has sympathised with victims of the flood. Basiru, who visited some of the affected areas, described the incident as most unfortunate, particularly at a time the economy was being pummelled by another wave of COVID-19.

He appealed to those living along river beds and courses to take precautions by clearing drainages to pave the way for the huge volume of water accompanying rainfall this season as already predicted by meteorologists.

"This is terrible; we sympathise with those who have lost property to this disaster. The government is on top of the situation as agencies are already assessing the damage with a view to preventing a reoccurrence," he stated.

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