

Anambra communities lament bridge collapse, flood drowns six

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The bridge

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There is fresh trouble for flooded communities in the Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State as the bridge linking about seven communities has collapsed.

The affected communities are Umunankwo, Mputu, Ogwuaniocha, Ossomala, Obeagwe, Akili Ogidi and Ogwuikpele.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the incident happened on Wednesday.

Our correspondent learnt that the bridge had been wobbling after a boat accident last Friday.

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An outboard engine boat conveying about 85 passengers, mostly traders, to the nearby Nkwo Ogbakuba Market, had suffered engine failure and crashed against the barriers of the bridge.

Some indigenes said that apart from the transition committee chairman of the area, Mr Paschal Aniegbuna, who assessed the extent of damage to the bridge after the boat accident, no other government official visited to examine the crash site.

An indigene, who identified himself only as Nnamdi, said, "In fact, we have long been cut off, without anyone making any appreciable effort to assuage our pains. This is the only road that connects all communities in Ogbaru, but surprisingly, it cuts into two somewhere around Ofia Umuoga, between Ogbakuba and Umunankwo."

With the collapse of the bridge, persons from the affected communities are now left with water transportation as the only means of moving around.

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A former member of the House of Representatives, Ogbaru Federal Constituency, Victor Ogene, called on both the State Emergency Management Agency and the National Emergency Management Agency to provide succour for the people of Ogbaru.

In a related development, six family members have been killed by flood in the Anambra East LGA of the state.

It was gathered that the incident happened in Nzam community as the family drowned after the flood submerged their house.

Some community youths were said to have entered the house and brought out their corpses, which they deposited in an upland area.

The victims were a woman, her four children and her sister.

It was learnt that the family was already getting ready to leave for a safer place when they were swept away by the flood.

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A SEMA official, who did not want to be identified because he was not authorised to speak on the matter, confirmed the incident, but said he could not tell the number of casualties.

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