

Benue man, neighbour drown attempting to rescue son

5th March 2024



File photo

By Johnson Idowu
A man, Mathew Ekpengbe, and his neighbour were reported to have drowned in a public well while attempting to rescue his 15-year-old son who had earlier fallen into the well.

PUNCH Metro learnt from an eyewitness who pleaded anonymity on Monday that the incident happened on Saturday in Oju town of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered that the late Ekpengbe, a carwash operator, had reportedly sent his son to fetch water from the well which was meant for use in his business when the son fell into the well.

Mathew, who was said to have seen his son fall into the well, rushed to the scene and attempted to rescue him.

The eyewitness narrated further that while trying to rescue his son from the well, Mathew requested the assistance of his neighbour to carry out the operation. However, the duo of Mathew and his neighbour were said to have run out of luck when they both also drowned in the process of rescuing the child.

The source said, “The boy went to fetch water but lost the fetching bucket in the well and in an attempt to retrieve the bucket, he slipped and fell into it.

“His father saw what happened and immediately called a neighbour to join him in rescuing his son from the well. Unfortunately, both of them also ended up falling into the same well.

Related News

Family, friends called me mad for building motorcycles from scratch – Benue man

Lagos man drowns during church beach hangout

Obama's family chef drowns near ex-president's residence

“Bystanders who were alarmed by what happened, rushed to the scene to rescue the three of them, but none made it out alive. They were all dead when they were brought out of the well, which has been serving the people of that area for a long time.”

The source added that the deceased persons were immediately buried by their family members because of the circumstances of their death.

Confirming the incident to our correspondent, the Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, Anene Swuese, said an investigation was ongoing into the incident.

“The incident was reported to the police and we have commenced an investigation into the matter. I cannot give further details now,” Swuese said.

PUNCH Metro reported on February 29 that a 13-year-old boy, Kelvin Onyengba, drowned during a hangout at the Alalise beach in the Ajah area of Lagos State.

It was gathered that the incident occurred at about noon on the fateful day when the deceased went swimming with five of his friends.

A police source told our correspondent that Kelvin died as a result of the sea’s waves.