

Three teenage miners drown in Bauchi river

24th July 2025



Bauchi CP, Aliyu. Photo: File

| Uthman Salami and Sani Umar

Kindly share this story:



Members of the Durum community in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State have been thrown into mourning following the tragic drowning of three teenagers on Tuesday.

The victims, identified by the state police command, are 16-year-old Habibu Mohammed, 16-year-old Abubakar Mohammed, and 14-year-old Zailani Sule.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the incident occurred around 1pm on Tuesday when the boys reportedly went for a swim in the river after engaging in mining activities in the area.

Residents who recovered the bodies said the teenagers were immediately rushed to the Specialist Hospital in Bauchi, where they were confirmed dead on arrival.

Speaking to a security analyst, counterinsurgency expert on Lake Chad, West Africa, Zagazola Makama, the head of Jinkiri Village, Yakubu Ahmad, said, “They came here often for mining and used to swim in the river after work. But this time, their luck ran out. We are heartbroken.”

Confirming the incident in a statement shared with *PUNCH Metro*, the spokesperson for the Bauchi State Police Command, Ahmed Wakil, said an investigation had been launched to determine the circumstances surrounding the drowning.

“A recent incident in Jinkiri Village, Tirwun Ward, Bauchi Local Government Area, has led to the tragic loss of three teenagers: Habibu Mohammed, ‘m,’ aged 16 years; Abubakar Mohammed, ‘m,’ aged 16 years; and Zailani Sule, ‘m,’ aged 14 years, residents of Durum Village,” the statement read.

Wakil explained that the teenagers had gone swimming in a nearby river after participating in mining activities in the area.

“The teenagers, unfortunately, lost their lives after an accident while swimming in a nearby river.”

He added that despite efforts to rescue and obtain medical help for the victims, “the teenagers were pronounced dead before reaching the hospital.”

Related News

Three teenagers drown while swimming in Bauchi river

Abuja man arrested as boy dies in soakaway

Colombian gold mine collapses, traps 18 miners

He further noted that preliminary findings indicated the boys had engaged in mining before entering the river.

“The preliminary investigation indicates that the teenagers had been engaged in mining activities before deciding to swim in the river,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the command, Wakil extended condolences to the grieving families.

“In light of this heartbreaking situation, the Nigeria Police Force, Bauchi State Command, under the able leadership of the Commissioner of Police, Sani-Omolori Aliyu, expresses its deepest condolences to the families affected and underscores the critical need for heightened safety awareness during water activities, especially during inclement weather,” he said.

He added that the bodies had been released to their families for burial after undergoing medical examination at the Specialist Hospital in Bauchi.

“The command is committed to promoting safety and awareness within the community to prevent similar incidents in the future,” Wakil concluded.

This marks the second reported case of drowning in the Bauchi Local Government Area this year.

In May, four workers at the Gubi Water Treatment Plant also lost their lives after drowning while performing routine maintenance at the facility, according to government sources.

Among the victims were a father, his son, and two other staff members.