

•Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Prince Segun Adesegun (middle), who represented Governor Ibikunle Amosun, flanked by wife of the Governor, Mrs Olufunso Amosun (left) and Speaker, Ogun State House of Assembly, Hon. Suraj Isola Adekumbi, at the Church service to mark the country's 53rd Independence Day celebration at the Cathedral of St Pauls, Ake, Abeokuta yesterday.

Man drowns in river during Osun tourism competition

**FROM BAMIGBOLA
GBLAGUNTE,
Osogbo**

A competition organised by the Osun State Ministry of Culture and Tourism to discover talents in the tourism sector at the weekend, ended on a sad note as a yet-to-be identified middle-aged man drowned in the river during the final stage of the competition.

The victim was one of the participants in the final stage of the swimming competition held at

the Otin River in Eko-ende, Ifelodun Local Government Area of the state.

Although the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained as at the time of filing this report, it was gathered that he was in his 40s and an Ijaw fisherman in the town.

The one-week event, which ended last Friday, was organised by the state government to discover talents in various tourist areas including swimming.

It was gathered that the competition had

ended peacefully, but the deceased went back to the river for another round of competition to prove his worth in swimming before he died in the river.

It was gathered that it took a long time before it was discovered that the deceased, who was a leading participant had drowned.

When his death was eventually discovered, Daily Sun learnt, it took the intervention of the Ijaws in the town before the corpse could be taken from the river.

It was also gathered that officials of the Osun

Ambulance Service (O'Ambulance) tried to save the life of the fisherman as they rushed him to a government hospital where he was eventually confirmed dead.

The traditional ruler of the town, Oba Rauf Olaniyan, said he was not aware of the incident as it happened after the competition.

He said he led all the participants to a Jumat service at the Eko-ende central mosque after the competition and was surprised that the deceased still went back to the river.