

Eight killed, property destroyed as flood sacks Abeokuta

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ABEOKUTA

No fewer than eight persons are feared died and property worth millions of naira destroyed within Abeokuta metropolis following length torrential rain in the Ogun State capital on Friday.

The downpour, which lasted about three hours, submerged bridges, vehicles and buildings in several parts of the city.

Notable areas affected by flooding in Abeokuta included Amolaso, Sapon, Isabo, Isale-Igbehin, Brewery, Sokori, Oke-Ilewo, Kuto, Oke Lanforo, Lanfenwa, Totoro, Ijaye, and Kobiti, among others.

Sunday Telegraph learnt

that human and vehicular movement were paralysed while the flooding lasted.

Three of those killed include a food vendor identified as Halirat Akintobi and her two children.

Sources said the food vendor was hiding inside her container shop located at Ilawo area near Kobiti Central Mosque, Abeokuta when the downpour started but were later trapped in the shop.

It was learnt that the three victims were buried yesterday morning in accordance with Islamic rites.

Also, the corpses of two children were reportedly recovered from Sokori River along Iyana Amolaso area of Abeokuta.

When Sunday Telegraph visited some of the affected

areas, some residents were seen salvaging their remaining personal effects from their homes while others were seen packing out of the affected areas.

One of those whose shops were destroyed at Amolaso area, Bisola Somuyiwa, said goods worth N5million were swept away by the flood, urging the state government to render financial assistance to the victims.

The trader explained that her warehouse, which was stocked with a trailer load of soft drinks three days ago, was also pulled down by the flood.

Another victim, Ismot Olayokun, told our correspondent that the flood submerged his two-storey building of his elder brother who was away in the United

States of America.

According to her, six vehicles parked within the building, electronic appliances, solar power system and other personal effects were destroyed during the incident.

"Those that came to help us clear the mess are demanding N50,000 but we are pleading with them to collect N30,000. For our shops that were destroyed, they are also demanding N100,000 but we are still pleading with them to accept N80,000. Goods worth over N3million were destroyed in my brother's blocks of shops. We've lost a lot to the flood and we only hope the government will come to our aid," Mrs Olayokun said.

Speaking with our correspondent, the chairman

of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Ogun State, Joseph Obalanlege, who embarked on on-the-spot assessment of the affected areas, described the flooding as devastating. Obalanlege stated that investigation by the body revealed that eight corpses of those killed had been deposited at the morgue of the State Hospital, Ijaiye, Abeokuta.

The state Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Iliyasu, who also monitored the extent of damage done by the flood, said he could not yet confirm the number of casualties.

Iliyasu, however, said the state command had already deployed adequate policemen to join other personnel of disaster management agencies in bringing succour to the affected people.

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Edwin Usoboh

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