

Flood kills three, sweeps away houses in Abuja

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Flood, which wreaked havoc on Kuruduma and Kobi communities, killed three persons, swept away houses and other property.

The flood accompanying the Monday downpour, which started about 1p.m., inflicted pains and sorrow on residents of the communities living along the water channels.

A witness, Ezekiel Kacha, said two children were swept away at Kuruduma community, while a young man, said to be in his late 20s and also identified as Uche,

was carried away by the flood while struggling to save his property at Kobi village.

His body was recovered yesterday morning.

One of the victims, and a middle-aged man, who refused to mention his name, but claimed to be a lawyer and a neighbour to Uche, said he saw when the deceased was struggling for survival but was overpowered by the flood.

The man also said he escaped death by a whisker, because his own house was already flooded, but was rescued by good spirited youths who braved the flood, came through the back of the house and broke the windows to pull him out.

He said: "I saw Uche in his

flooded three-bedroom flat opposite my own. He was standing aloof while I was shouting help!, help!, when my house was flooded. It took the timely intervention of some youths who came through the back, broke the iron burglar-proof before pulling me out.

"I have lived in this place for two years, but I have never seen this kind of flood.

"Uche initially came out of his house, but rushed back, obviously to pick up something, unfortunately the flood overpowered him and swept him and the plantain tree he clung to away."

A chemist, Sarah Zakka, who was bailing water out of her shop, said the flood took the people unaware. She, however, expressed gratitude that she survived the flood.

Zakka said her shop was submerged