



ZUL-KIHIDA 1, 1429 A.H.  
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## 2 drown in Ebonyi River

Two unidentified young men on Monday drowned in Umunwagu Idembiam's end of the Ebonyi River in Ebonyi.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the incident occurred when the young men tried to cross the river, which runs through the community in Ezza North Local Government Area, in a canoe.

According to the operator of the ill-fated canoe, Mr Friday Okereke, the young men tried to carry a motorcycle across the river, a move that he vehemently opposed because of its weight.

Okereke told NAN that after persistent appeals from the young men, he agreed to carry the motorcycle.

He said that midway into the journey, the canoe could not carry the weight of the motorcycle anymore and capsized.

Okereke said he tried to save the young men, but as they clung to him, making it difficult for him to swim, he disengaged to save himself.

Meanwhile, rescuers have been engaged to try to recover the bodies of the two men.

The traditional ruler of Umunwagu Idembiam Autonomous Community, Eze John Ucha, expressed concern over the growing number of lives lost in mishaps in the river.

The Parish Priest of Our Lady of Catholic Church, Umunwagu Idembiam, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ituma, called on the government to come to the assistance of the community.

“We thank the government for providing us with engine boats in the past, but we want more boats and the construction of a concrete bridge across the river.”

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