

Flood: 2 feared drown in Ibadan river •No casualty —Police •As govt orders closure of Secretariat–Bodija road

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AT least two people were said to have drowned in a river on the Secretariat-University of Ibadan road, during the rain that fell on Monday night.

During the rain, Nigerian Tribune learnt on Tuesday that a section of the road was washed away, while the bridge collapsed.

Two vehicles, a black Toyota Corrolla with registration number Oy 55-A66 and a Toyota Hiace commercial vehicle with registration number XG 85 NRR, were carried away by the flood.

An eyewitness told the Nigerian Tribune that at the time of the incident, only the driver and his conductor were in the commercial vehicle.

The eyewitness also said the driver of the government's car made an attempt to move out of the water when he discovered that the water was sweeping the vehicle away.

When the Nigerian Tribune visited the scene of the incident, commercial drivers in the area said they were still looking for the body of the driver of the commercial vehicle.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Olabisi Okuwobi, who confirmed the incident, said she was aware that a commercial vehicle and another Honda car were carried away by the flood, while denying that a government's vehicle was involved.

Also speaking on the incident, the state Com-missioner of Police, Tambari Yabo Muhammed, said he was at the scene of the incident on Monday night, adding that nobody drowned.

Meanwhile, the state government, speaking through the deputy gover-nor, Chief Moses Adeyemo, has ordered the closure of the road, to ensure its speedy completion.

The deputy governor, at an on-the spot analysis of the situation, expressed regret that the flood, which attended Monday night rain had washed away the temporary bridge constructed by the firm handling the bridge, Kopek Nigeria Limited.

"We thank God that there were no casualties. Imme-diately the flood was brought to our notice, we mobilised everyone here, including the speaker of the state House of Assembly and security agencies. We were here till 2.00 a.m on Tuesday and did not leave until we had ensured that the flood did no damage to human beings and property," Adeyemo told newsmen.