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Over 20 houses collapse, four feared dead as flood sweeps Benin City

Written by Simon Ebegbulem
Sunday, 21 September 2008

OVER twenty houses collapsed, while four children were feared dead yesterday in Benin City, after a heavy rainfall that lasted for over five hours. It was tears in almost every part of the city as families lament the flood that took over their homes and search for their children.

At Aruosa street, where Vanguard and The Punch offices were located, three children were declared missing after the flood took over four houses in that particular street while a four year old boy was also declared missing at Apostolic Lane, Sakpoba road. It was pretty difficult to search for the missing children because of the level of the water.

Three of the children are Hausa indigenes. However, youths of the area are combing the waters for the missing children, just as the parents appealed to the state government to provide relief materials for them.

Father of the missing three, Mohamed lamented that “we were all inside the house when the rain started but suddenly the roof of our house blew off and rain started entering. Before we knew it, the whole house became flooded and we started and that was when the children tried to run outside but the flood covered them and that was how we started looking for them now.”

Other areas seriously affected by the heavy down pour included the Government Reservation Area (GRA), Textile Mill road, Upper Sakpoba, Medical Store Road and Ugbowo.

As a matter of fact, the road leading to the state government House in GRA was not spared by the flood. The flood took over the two gates along the golf course road.

But in a swift reaction, the Chief Press Secretary to the state Governor, Mr Dan Aigbavboa described the flood incident as shocking and assured that the state government would do all it could to ensure that relief came to the affected victims.

According to him, “you know that this has always been our problem in this state and you will agree with me that it was worst before the coming of this administration.”

A lot of efforts have been made to construct roads and open up the gutters. And we are seeing the difference. But it is just that the rain this morning was quite heavy and that is why we are hearing some of this ugly stories.

But we are glad we have a Governor that is puts the problem of the people first before any other thing, therefore be rest assured that the situation will be looked into and appropriate action will be taken”.

The state Commissioner for Environment, Mrs Sarah Adetugboubgou could not be reached when Vanguard contacted her. Vanguard was informed by her Personal Assistant that she was in a meeting when a call was passed through to her.

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1

ON EDO STATE GOVERNMENTWritten by [Diamond](#), on 22-09-2008 03:18 , IP: 41.219.255.22

I read the vanguard of friday september 19th 2008.when the governor of Edo state was saying he have solved the flooding problem in benin city.well we have seen the deception in the pdp led government of osereme osunbor.Its a shame that leaders still decieve the people after ringing themselves into office.but they should know that its God that gives leadership,if the devil now steals it and declare that its the same God that put them there and start to decieve the people,the retribution will be devastating at the end.they must remember how the sworn with the bible or koran before taking the mantle of leadership so they should not think they are smarter than the super camera(GOD).

2

Are how leaders sincere?Written by [AIGBOGUN COLLINS UYIOSA](#), on 24-09-2008 03:49 , IP: 128.119.115.163**ARE OUR LEADERS SINCERE?**

I am writing in response to a report i read in your newspaper on Wednesday, the 24th of September,2008 as regards the deplorable condition of our roads and drainage system in Edo State which was climaxed by the untold and unpleasant experiences of our people after a torrential rainfall. Often time, i ask myself if our leaders in Nigeria including Edo State have their citizenry at heart in all aspect of governance? The obvious answer is no. Instead, the egocentric character innate in most of us come to bear. They think of what they can selfishly cart away from government coffers to the detriment of the populace. Indeed, it is an aberration and a misnomer that at this time of having a supposedly "Edo for excellence" administration, we are confronted with a myriad of epileptic stagnation which was the hallmark of previous administration in the state.

I was privilege to visit the United States of America where i am mailing from. The summary of my observation and contribution is that our leaders have been meshed in a cycle of democratic infidelity to the detriment of the teeming Nigerians who brought them to power. It is also ridiculous that most of our leaders schooled abroad while a good number of them also travel abroad for official engagements. The question is why have they not considered the practical feasibility of transferring back home some of the technologies, infrastructure or leadership style adopted by these developed countries. Indeed, we are in a pitiable and demoralizing state.

Edo State and the rest of Nigeria is blessed with abundant mineral and material resources. Yet, we suffer amidst plenty. What an aberration!!! Nigerians are known to be one of the most desperate, hardworking and intelligent people in the whole earth, yet how come our entire educational system is in a state of quagmire? What an irony!!!

I don't know if our leaders have not asked themselves why many educationally-minded individuals and technically-sound entrepreneurs go outside the shores of the country to actualize their ambition? I may not be sure if our leaders know the overall effect of what such brain-drain and idea-depleting exodus does to the economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I think it is high time our leaders went back to the drawing board to map up a sincere pathway to greatness for this great country of ours. Developed countries like America was built by Americans, same was Britain and China to mention but a few. We can do same for our country. I still believe in NIGERIA. We will be great once again if only we are willing to contribute our quota to national development. However, our government has to give us a sense of direction. God bless Nigeria.

AIGBOGUN COLLINS UYIOSA writing to the editor of Vanguard newspaper for probable publishing. I desire it to be published in your daily. Please, reply me on Email: uyiaigbogun@yahoo.com , 24th September,2008


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