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Nigeria: Deadly Rain! Two Siblings, Three Other Kids Die in Minna Flood

Vanguard (Lagos)**19 October 2008**

Posted to the web 20 October 2008

Wole Mosadomi
 Minna

LAST week cannot be easily forgotten by three families in Minna, Niger State as they lost five kids to flood occasioned by the torrential rainfall in the state capital. While the corpses of four of them have been recovered, one other is yet to be seen, even after desperate search.

Two of the deceased, Mohammed Yakubu, 8, and Abdullahi Yakubu, 5, are of the same parents while Amos Danjuma Wakili is the first son of a senior reporter with the state owned newspaper, Newline, Danjuma Wakili.

The other two corpses which were recovered a day after the torrential rainfall were, at press time, yet to be identified as they were stumbled on while the search for the corpse of Amos Wakili was on. Sunday Vanguard gathered that Mohammed and Abdullahi Yakubu were busy playing football in front of their house alongside their friends while the rain was on. As they were busy exhibiting their talents, their football rolled into the deep drainage beside the house.

In a desperate effort to recover the ball from being carried away by the flood, the younger brother, Abdullahi, jumped into the drainage not aware of the danger.

As the ball and Abdullahi were being carried away by the flood, the elder brother, Mohammed, exhibited some bravery by also jumping into the drainage to rescue his junior brother but he failed as both of them and the ball could not be seen again within a twinkle of an eye as they were washed away by the flood.

Their playing mates who watched helplessly as the duo were being "flushed" away by the flood quickly raised an alarm which was rather too late as they could not be traced when the parents of the children and other sympathizers rushed out to the call. In the case of the third victim, Amos, he was also said to have gone to watch the Julius Berger drainage which passes through their house in company of his friends. They were said to have been attracted to the drainage because of the force of the flood as it was full to the brim.

As they were watching with admiration, one of the slippers of Amos was said to have fallen into the drainage and, in an effort to retrieve it, the victim ended up in the drainage as he was completely swallowed and "flushed" away. Efforts by sympathizers to trace and recover the corpses of Amos yielded no result even after the rain and this led to the

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continuation of the frantic search the second day.

It was the corpse of Amos that was being searched for when the two unidentified corpses of two kids that may have died through the same circumstances were recovered. Their identities and where they were trapped could not be known as at the time of going to press.

Mallam Yakubu Musa who is a Civil Servant and father of the late kids Mohammed and Abdullahi returned back home on the fateful day only for the sad news to be broken to him.

Describing the death of the children as sad, Mallam Yakubu took consolation saying, "They were given to me by Allah and their death through this circumstance is best known to him as no one can question his authority".

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Meanwhile, the state governor, Dr, Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was one of the first sympathizers that visited the families of the bereaved to console and commiserate with them and prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

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