

NEWS

2 feared dead as landslide hit Bayelsa community

BY SAMUEL OYADON-
GHAN

YENAGOA—TWO persons among them a graduate of Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, were, yesterday, feared dead in a landslide, which hit the riverine community of Peremabiri in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

The missing youths, identified as Mr. Ikioudo Abel, a graduate of the Niger Delta University and a secondary school leaver, Stanley Dominic, were reported buried in the landslide during a football match, close to the community waterside.

Though the immediate cause of the landslide could not be ascertained, some indigenes of the community said it might not be unconnected with the incessant dredging work in the area. Sources said search for the missing youths was still on.

It was gathered that the boys during a football game, had tried retrieving their ball close to the river shore when the incident occurred.

Spokesman for the

Community Development Committee, Mr. Morris Johnson and a former militant leader from the community, Mr. Eris Paul confirmed the development. He blamed the incident on the activities of two dredging companies of causing the landslide.

Mr. Johnson said though the community consented to the dredging projects by

the Shell Petroleum Development Company. The company had not done any reclamation work as the dredging work had exposed the community to disasters in the last few months.

The former member of Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND, Mr. Paul, expressed concern over

the rising cases of natural disasters in the area and appealed to the state government, President and the National Assembly to save the community.

Ogunboss said the people of the community were gripped by fear of extinction due to the recurring disasters.

He said the future of the community cannot be

guaranteed, adding that the persistent dredging works in the area had polluted it waters.

When contacted, the spokesman of the State Police Command, Mr. Emokpae Eguavoen, said though the incident had not been reported to the command, he will contact the Oporoma division for details and investigation.

Gowon urges prayers for nation's ills

BY SIMONEBEG-
BULEM

BENIN CITY—FORMER Head of State and Convener of Nigeria Prays, Gen. Yakubu Gowon, yesterday, called on Nigerians to pray for the ills militating against the growth of the country.

Speaking in Benin City, Edo State, at the national day of prayer for Nigeria, organised by National Orientation Agency, NOA, in conjunction with Yakubu Gowon Foundation, the former head of state said that though the pace of development in the country was unsatisfactory, Nigerians must not lose hope.

Uwheru kingdom gets new monarch

BY FESTUS AHON

UGHELLI—HRM Agboavwe Oyise 11, has been coronated as the new Odion of Uwheru



BRIEFING: From left; Mr. Jide Olorunfemi, Senior Brand Manager, Peak; Mr. Bob Steetskamp, MD, FrieslandCampina WAMCO; and Mrs. Ore Famurewa, Corporate Affairs Manager at a briefing on the Peak talent show season-3 in Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Joe Akintola, Photo Editor.