

2 siblings drown in Ebonyi village pond

ABAKALIKI — TWO children of the same parents, yesterday, drowned in a pond at Enwugba village in Abakaliki Local Government Area of Ebonyi, according to an eyewitness.

An eyewitness, who preferred anonymity, said the victims, Jideofor, 6 and Chinecherem, 4, had gone to fetch water from the pond.

According to the witness, Chinecherem's container slipped off her hand and in an attempt to rescue it, she slipped into the pond.

"Jideofor, who saw what had happened, rushed to assist her but he drowned as well," the witness said.

The father of the children, Mr Pius Mbam, who resides in Enugu, expressed grief over their death.

Mbam said he received an urgent call to come home only for him to see the lifeless bodies of his two children.

He said: "If there had been any elderly person at the pond, the water would not

have drowned my children."

The Chairman of Abakaliki Local Government Area, Mr Bartholomew Ottah, who visited the family, urged them to accept the situation in good fate.

Ottah gave the assurance that the council would sink a borehole for the community before the end of April to address the water scarcity in the area.

Gunmen kill one, snatch 3 vehicles in Bauchi

BY SUZAN EDEH

BAUCHI — ONE person was killed while three vehicles were snatched by gunmen in an attack in Soro village of Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State

According to a statement issued by the Bauchi State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, in Bauchi, the incident happened yesterday night.

According to the statement,

the gunmen numbering about 20 attacked Soro town and snatched three vehicles including a white Hilux van with number plate 206 UN 139 belonging to the United Nations.

A white Toyota Hilux belonging to Bauchi State television, with number plate 04C-04 BA and one other yet-to-be identified vehicle were stolen at gunpoint.

It stated that the suspects fired sporadically in a bid to escape and a stray bullet hit one Bose Bappa of Tudun Wada of Soro town who later died in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the entire surroundings and adjoining towns have been cordoned off by combined security forces and efforts are being intensified to get the fleeing suspects arrested.

Amnesty International says 49 convoy drivers for training