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How 18-yr-old girl drowned washing Ukwa seeds in Imo

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By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—The people of Umuezeala, Umueme autonomous community, Awo-Omamma in Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State have been thrown into mourning, following the drowning of their daughter, Miss Chioma Amaechi.

Vanguard investigations revealed that Chioma went to the fast-flowing Njaba River to wash *Ukwa* seeds (African Breadfruit). A source in the village told *Vanguard* that the girl had completed the task and decided to take a bath, when she drowned.

The villager said: “Some people at the scene heard a scream from her and her two younger siblings tried to save her.”

The man also recalled that some adults at the scene made frantic efforts to save the drowning trio and succeeded in saving the younger siblings.

“How Chioma slipped away from the hands of the diver and other efficient swimmers has remained a mystery,” the villager recalled.

Another female villager, who equally spoke on condition of anonymity, said: “The young school leaver has not been seen since. Divers and some good swimmers, who were engaged by the family have not been able to recover the body of the missing girl.”

Chioma’s mother, Mrs. Emeka Amaechi, a widow, wept bitterly, praying for a miracle to happen in her daughter’s case.

Vanguard gathered that 18-year-old Chioma, who wrote the West African School Certificate Examination last year at Amiri Girls Secondary School, had written this year’s Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, UTME.

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