

Tragedy in Ondo again; fisherman, labourer drowned

By Dayo Johnson Akure

TRAGEDY struck again in Ondo town, headquarters of Ondo West council area of Ondo state as two persons drowned in a river.

This is coming barely a week after two motorcyclists were swept away by flood from torrential rain in Oka area of the town.

Eyewitness identified the two victims, a fisherman, God'sTime James aged 34 and a labourer, Boluwaji Akinade, aged 35.

They reportedly drowned at Arigba river behind Saint Andrews Grammar School, along Sir Olabanji Akingbule road, Arigbabola street, Ondo at about 6.30am on Thursday.

Vanguard was told that the fisherman had gone to the river bank to fish while the labourer also went to the river to pack sands.

Their lifeless bodies were later recovered by local divers invited by the people in the area.

Sources hinted that the fisherman was standing by the river bank to catch fishes while the labourer was equally packing sand to sell when the unfortunate incident occurred.

The fisherman who reportedly started sinking raised alarm and the la-

bourer who was near him rushed to rescue him but instead also fell into the river and they both drowned.

An eyewitness, Christinah Olugbenga said: "One of the victims was fishing in the river and the other one was pack-

ing sand at the other side of the river.

"The one fishing started sinking into the river and shouted for help. The other victim rushed there to save him. But in the process of trying to rescue him, he too drowned in the river.

Take action on inmates on death sentence, Argovs *Alerts on prison congestion, says 50,992 inmates a

By Shina Abubakar,
Osogbo

MINISTER of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola has disclosed that custodial centres across the country were congested by inmates awaiting trial, constituting numerous challenges for correctional services.

This is as he charged state governors to do the needful to inmates on death row to reduce pressure on custodial facilities, making case for those with terminal illness or old age to be set free on compassionate ground and commute others to either life imprisonment or specific terms.

Aregbesola who spoke at the official commissioning of Osun State Command Headquarters of Correctional Office Complex in Osogbo, said 50,992 inmates are awaiting trials while 17,755 are actual convicts.

He added that the maximum capacity of the nation's custodial facilities is 57,278 inmates but which at present are housing 68,747 inmates, adding that in a bid to decongest the facilities, Federal Government last year introduced presidential pardon and amnesty programme for inmates, through which 5,000 inmates have so far been released.

The Minister added, "One main challenge of the correctional service, therefore, is congestion of the custodial facilities. The entire national custodial facilities have maximum capacity for 57,278 inmates. But by the last count earlier in the week, there was a total population of 68,747 inmates, made up of 67,422 males and 1,325 females. We have therefore shot above the capacity by 18 per cent.

"But I must add that the congestion is an urban phenomenon limited to big cities like Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and others. There are facilities in non-urban areas that are underpopulated. It is