

Anambra septuagenarian found dead in his flooded bedroom

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA— A septuagenarian in Anambra State, Mr Sunday Mesiobi, was yesterday found dead in his flooded bedroom at Ogbe Akpoma, Atani in Ogbaru local government area of the state.

Mesiobi, who went to bed the previous night, did not wake up only for his neighbours to discover his submerged body in the room.

Mr Arinzechukwu Awogu, the immediate past chairman of Ogbaru local government area, who said Mesiobi was his uncle, said the submerged body was discovered yesterday.

According to Awogu, the deceased was the only one left in the house after he had earlier evacuated his wife and children due to the ravaging flood that had affected most communities in Ogbaru.

He said his uncle's remains had been deposited at the Atani mortuary.

He said: "It was not clear the exact time the incident happened, but family sources said that his lifeless body was found when one of them came to check on him and after calling his name repeatedly without response.

"They sighted his cloth floating on the water inside his room and when the cloth was pulled up it turned out that his body was under the water."

Awogu expressed pain and sadness over the unfortunate incident while calling on those whose houses have been submerged to stay away from such homes for their safety.

He commended the state government for the efforts it had made to mitigate the effect of the flood disaster in the state, even as he called for a change in response strategy as it had become a critical emergency.

"This issue has gone beyond asking people to converge in a particular location to live as displaced people. We need more of a community-based approach where community leaders will have more direct contact with victims," he said.