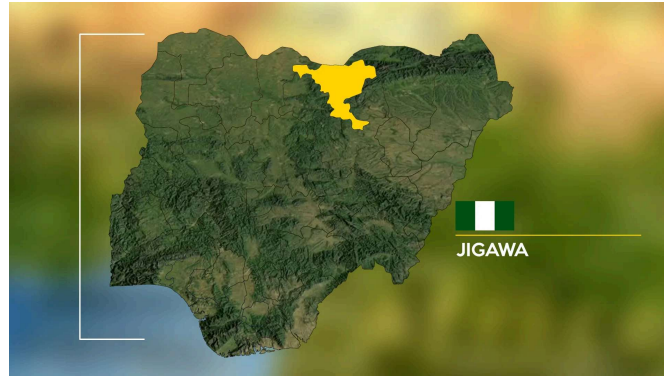


7 Dead, 53 Injured As Windstorm Hits 13 Jigawa LGAs



By Ali Rabi Ali, Dutse

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At least seven people have died and 53 others were injured after a windstorm devastated 13 local government areas of Jigawa State.

The Executive Secretary of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Hannafi Fagam, disclosed this on Wednesday at the agency's headquarters in Dutse.

He said the disaster affected 5,403 households across 120 communities.

The affected LGAs are Dutse, Miga, Gwaram, Birnin Kudu, Ringim, Kiyawa, Babura, Kiri-Kasamma, Buji, Kaugama, Gumel, Gagarawa and Sule-Tankarkar.

According to Fagam, four of the deaths occurred in Dutse LGA, while Miga, Ringim and Sule-Tankarkar recorded one death each.

He said the windstorm also destroyed more than 47 primary and secondary schools, three hospitals, two police stations, residential buildings and other public infrastructure.

Fagam said the state government had approved funds for emergency relief, while assessment teams were still evaluating the full extent of the damage.

He described the incident as a major natural disaster with serious humanitarian and socio-economic consequences, adding that SEMA was working with relevant stakeholders to coordinate relief efforts.

He appealed to international development partners, humanitarian organisations, corporate bodies and well-meaning individuals to support the state's intervention by donating relief materials and other assistance to affected communities.

Fagam assured residents that the agency would continue its assessment and ensure the prompt distribution of relief materials to victims.