

Akare community awaiting rescue

ILIYA GARBA reports that Akare community in Zungeru district, of Wushisu local government council of Niger State is evading a terrible battle for survival over an unprecedented massive flood.

As far back as the 18th Century. Infact, the village accommodates virtually people from different parts of the country due to its economic importance as well as the existence of a viable railway station built around 1901.

The village is also famously known as a hub of rice in the state due to the abundant fadama land suitable for the grow of low land rice and vegetables.

This and other factors including the peaceful and hospitable nature of this people had invariably attracted people from far and near to settle in the area thereby contributing to its outstanding record of a community with the largest number of elites and successful business men in the local government Area that occupy various position at the state, federal and public service in large number.

From recent available records it was estimated that the area has a population of over 10,000 inhabitants who are vigorously engaged in viable activities in order to meet their basic needs as well as contributing immensely to the socio-economic development of the area, the state and the country at large.

The major problem they now keeps everyone there sleepless, and restless us the recent unprecedented flooding of the area. The flood is a spilled over from Birni Gwari Dam in Kaduna State as well as over flow of river Mariaga where there is confluence near the village which over weigh the inner base some few kilometers to Akare community and

surrounded the affected villages thereby submerged the entire community and other surrounding villages.

Daily Champion gathered that so far, the flood have claimed the lives of six people including 60 women who were in the area to buy rice.

Also houses and farmlands have been washed away by the flood, some portion of

the railway track was washed away completely, thereby cutting off the rail link through train from the western part to the northern region since the incidence occur.

Officials of the railway corporation from Minna had inspected the damage done on their

track by the flood without any solution yet due to it magnanimity.

It was discovered that even before the flood, suffered untold hardship as there is no suitable access road to the community apart from the railway track which has not been

effective in the recent past. The journey from the state capital which ordinarily should be about an hour took us about four hours.

The feeder road from Kundu Village near Zungeru – Akare is about 44klm while from Tashan Wushishi –Akare in about 32klm of which only motorcycle can maneuver the road because there is no bridge across the Kaduna river from Wushishi to the other side.

Presently, the people are in a very sympathetic condition as they lost their shelter and other valuables to the flood and cannot even move out because the road is not motorable and no commercial vehicles wants to risk traveling through such roads.

This development has compelled most of the non indigenes residing in the area for decades to despite the benefits of staying within the locality, move out from the community.

In an interview with the village head of the community, Alhaji Mohammed Mahmud Akare disclosed:

"We have been living in this place for decades and we have never experience such a disaster in good faith because God that has allowed

the thing to happen is also capable of fostering solution to our present predicament. We are seeing this incidence as a good

omen as far as we are concern as this may attract our leaders to do something in order to alleviate our problems.

As I am talking to you, many of my subjects cannot boast of any clothes apart from the ones on them as well as no shelter and we lost our farmlands which invariably will lead to hunger among our people because there will be no food to sustain individual

families to the next farming season."

The village head then appealed to the federal, state and local governments to come to the aid of the people with relief materials as well as reconstructing their

homes.

When contacted, the Chairman Caretaker Committee of Wushishi Local Government, Alhaji Saidu Abubakar said, "I have visited the place. The people are in dear need of shelter, drugs and food. The local government cried loud and clear to all over the place on the effect of the flood and the action is manifesting because the state emergency relief committee and the state governor Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu has approved substantial amount to provide relief to the people.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) at the federal level has also been contacted."

The local government initial measure was the provision of food items, drugs drinking water and substantial relief materials such as cooking utensils and beddings were taken to the affected communities but such provision was far from enough not enough.

The chairman appealed for the immediate intervention of he Federal Government through NEMA so as to avoid an outbreak of endemic in the area due to the pollution of the environment as a result of the flood.