

Lightning kills 2 in Sokoto

TWO men, aged 18 and 22 years respectively, were recently killed by lightning in Goronyo Local Government Council of Sokoto State, Alhaji Zubairu Yari, chairman of the council, has said.

Yari told newsmen in Sokoto yesterday that the incident occurred in Giyawa Village last Thursday. He said the deceased were taking refuge under a tree as their houses were among the more than 150 destroyed by flood when the lightning struck.

"They were taking refuge under the tree struck by lightning sequel to the destruction of their houses due to a ravaging flood. They died on the spot and they were buried that same day in the village according to Islamic rites," Yari said. The chairman said several other persons who were injured as a result of the flood

were treated at the Goronyo General Hospital and discharged.

"There was no other loss of life apart from the two," the chairman added. He estimated the cost of property destroyed by the flood to be worth N20 million. According to him, several farmlands, dozens of livestock and assorted household items as well as stored food items such as rice, onions, garlic, millet, beans and guinea corn among others were washed away.

Yari said the flood was caused by the overflow of a nearby stream due to the collapse of a culvert. "Unless a bridge is built in the area, the problem which had been recurring since 2008 will continue. So I am appealing to the state government to construct the bridge as well as come to the aid of the victims who had lost all

their means of livelihood," Yari said.

He said the local government had constituted an eight-man committee to assess the extent of the damage caused by the disaster and recommend the type of assistance required by the victims. He said the local government authority would assist the victims while seeking the support of the state and federal governments. Yari said Goronyo town and its environs were now in darkness as all electric poles leading to the area had been pulled down due to the flood.

Dr Kulu Haruna, the Special Adviser to the governor on Ecological and Relief Matters, said that a report on the disaster would soon be submitted to the state government with a view to assisting the victims. (NAN)