

# 130,000 displaced, 10 killed in Sokoto floods

From Shehu Abubakar, Sokoto

GOVERNOR Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of Sokoto State said yesterday that eight bridges collapsed, 130,000 people displaced and 50 villages were affected with 20 of them completed washed away by the recent flood in the state.

He spoke when a Federal Government delegation led by the Minister of State for Works visited him.

The governor said the state government had so far spent about N500 million in providing relief for victims. He said temporary shelter had been provided in places where there were schools and other government structures. He said the main source of water supply to Sokoto had been submerged by flood.

A source said there was an outbreak of cholera in the local government as a result of contamination of drinking water caused by the flood.

The source said this year's flood started from his constituency added that Goronyo was worst hit. He said one person was reported dead as a result of cholera while

10 others drowned in the flood that started about a week ago.

"The issue of flood disaster in Goronyo is a very serious one considering the fact that we are witnessing for the very first time, the most catastrophic and most unfortunate flood disaster in recent times. It has now escalated to the loss of lives, houses, food and cash crops," he said.

The governor visited Goronyo twice and donated N30 million to the victims."

The acting General Manager of the state Water Board, Alhaji Ahmad Moyi Tambuwal, had earlier said water supply to Sokoto and its environs had been suspended indefinitely. He said the water pumping machines at the only source of water supply to the state capital had been submerged and over taken by water.

Hundreds of residents of Sokoto were seen carrying containers, fetching water from the few boreholes in the town. A 20 liter can of water that cost about N10 before the incident now costs between N50 and N100 depending on the area. The Permanent Secretary in the state Ministry of Health Mr. Umar Attahiru said one person was reported dead in Sabon Birnin as a result of gastro enteritis.