

# Flood kills 8, destroys 60,000 farms in Jigawa

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Dutse

Eight persons died in the recent flood that occurred in Jigawa State, Executive Secretary of the State Emergency Management Agency, Yusuf Sani Babura, said.

Babura, while speaking with journalists in Dutse, at the weekend, said the flood was caused by heavy rainfall and water from Gamadugu river.

"Eight people lost their lives

under different circumstances as a result of the flood. Three persons died in Babura, one in Hadejia, two in Kiyawa and the other three were from two other local government areas," he said.

He said information compiled from 16 out of the affected local government areas indicated that about 60,000 farmlands covering a distance of about a kilometre from both sides of the over flowing River Gamadugu,

were washed away.

On the value of the amount of property destroyed, Babura said the agency was still trying to ascertain that, and that as soon as it was done, they would make the data available.

"The volume of destruction is enormous and the burden will be too heavy for the state to bear. So as soon as we finish compiling our data, we will reach out to the National Emergency Management

Agency (NEMA), international donors and well spirited individuals for assistance said. The Executive Secretary said the state government discovered that the presence of Typha grass at the part of Gamadugu contributed to the flood, because it blocked the flow of water.

He added that to avert a similar disaster, government ordered the clearance of the river.

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