

Flood kills 8, destroys 57 villages in Bauchi

**From Ahmed Mohammed,
Bauchi**

Eight persons have been confirmed dead after flood wreaked havoc in 11 local government areas of Bauchi State.

The flood, following a heavy downpour accompanied by a windstorm, also destroyed 57 villages and displaced 567 people, according to the state officials.

The co-ordinator, Bauchi State Emergency Management Agency, Dr Abubakar Umar Gabarin, told newsmen in a briefing, yesterday, that three persons died in Ningi, another three in Gamawa and one each in Jama'are and Toro local government areas.

He said farms, livestock and other properties worth over N280 million were lost to the disaster.

He said officials were still counting the losses and that a report on the damage would be submitted to the state governor, Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir.

The Director, Research and Statistics, Adamu Nayola, said the agency had advised people residing along waterways to relocate to safe areas before the peak of the rains.

It also warned that they have about three months to prepare against the disastrous effects of the flood.

Adamu also cautioned the people against swimming in the river whenever there was heavy downpour.

He blamed the flood on poor drainage system caused by uncontrolled physical development.

The governor, Bala Mohammed, who visited Unguwar Yankari, directed the state's Ministry of Land and Housing to demolish houses built on waterways and compensate the owners.

He also urged the federal government to fix the collapsed bridge in Ningi and other roads leading to the state.