

Flood kills 29, destroys 321,000 houses in Kebbi

By Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

The Kebbi State government said 29 persons have died and 321,000 houses and 858,000 farmlands have been lost to flood in 16 of the 21 local government areas of the state.

Briefing journalists in Birnin Kebbi on Friday, the state Commissioner for Information, Yakubu Ahmed, said if help does not get to the affected areas where rice, maize, guinea corn and other crops were destroyed by the flood, there might be shortage of food in the state and

Nigeria at large.

He said before the NiMET prediction that Kebbi might be worst hit by flood, the state had suffered severe disaster from flooding in 16 local government areas due to the water released from Goronyo dam and the convergence waters in River Rima and River Kaa, which flow into the state through River Niger.

The commissioner said despite the measures taken by the government, the state still suffered flooding.

"Only five out of the 16 local governments of the state are minimally

affected. The flood destroyed farmlands, bridges and thousands of households.

"On the number of deaths, we had lost seven persons in Shanga, eight in Maiyama, five in Kalgo, seven in Jega and two in Birnin Kebbi so far," he said.

Ahmed said given the enormity of the damage the flood caused to households, farmlands, bridges and access roads in many communities of the state, the government alone cannot shoulder the responsibilities.

He called on the federal government, cooperate organisations and individuals for support.