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Flood kills nine month-old baby in Cross River

The flood swept across seven LGAs and displaced over 12, 000 people in the state

ARTICLE | SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 - 2:06PM | BY PATRICK IMOH

A nine month old baby was reported to have been killed by a flood that swept across Adim, Biase Local Government area of

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Cross River state
on Wednesday
night.

The late baby's
three year-old
brother, Jerry Echu
Okon, and the
mother, Glory Echu

Okon survived the incident, though with serious injuries. Glory said that they had no idea the situation would be that bad, as the water had been over 200 meters away from the village the evening before.

She said; "It was as if I was in a grave. I could not hear anything and my limbs were numb. I only realized that my baby was dead after the rescue operation was carried out and we were pulled out of the rubbles."



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The Director-General, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Vincent Aquah at the site of the disaster sympathized with victims, mainly with the family of the deceased.

He further explained that water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon had presently affected communities located in Ikom, Yala, Ogoja, Obubra, Abi, Biase and Odukpani areas of Cross River and displaced over 12, 000 people in the state.

"We have a large volume of water coming in as a result of the discharge of water from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam and it is the manifestation of what we had earlier been warned against," he said.

Aquah reported that the flooding had caused an invasion of reptiles, including, crocodiles and snakes, in many communities and also affecting a large section of agricultural communities. He expressed fear that there might be a poor harvest in the 2012



farming season saying that the seven local government areas affected in Cross River and other areas which relied on the communities for food were likely to experience famine for two years.

"The rivers are over charged, farms destroyed, property worth millions destroyed and we also recorded a number of loss of lives."

The Director General said that the agency had received another alert that between now and November, excess water from the dam would still be discharged.

He added that the government would design measures to ensure that the severity of the next flooding would be reduced.

"In the recent past, we had an alert and warning that there was going to be flood in certain areas in Cross River as a result of discharge of water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon. We also have

to sensitise our people to life saving measures and possible evacuation and to save life and property in the affected areas. We are working with surveyors so that we can convince ourselves that the recent flooding is as a result of the dam water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, " he said.

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by **chukwuemeka E (not verified)** | September 21, 2012 - 1:41am

My question is, what would government do about this inccident?

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