

Flood claims two lives, property in Gombe

THREE years after several people lost their lives to floods in Gombe State, another flood disaster has hit the state capital and its Akko Local Council area, claiming two lives and destroying over 100 houses.

The tragedy, which struck after a heavy rain that lasted about 30 minutes, washed away livestock and destroyed many houses in Bogo Village of Akko Council area.

During a visit to the affected area to commiserate with the people, the state Governor Danjuma Goje lamented the recurrence of floods in the area.

The governor appealed to the Federal Government to come to the aid of the state, noting that the state government alone could not shoulder the responsibility of controlling the erosion menace, which cut across the state.

He restated his adminis-

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tration's commitment to the welfare of the citizenry as he presented about relief materials worth N7 million to the victims.

The Emir of Akko, Alhaji Muhammad Umar Atiku, commended the governor for the visit to the affected area and pleaded for speedy efforts to rescue the area from the perennial problem. Meanwhile, the state gov-

ernment has revoked a N127 million contract for the construction of a central library for Gombe State University. The contract was awarded to Eagle Construction Company Limited four months ago.

The state Commissioner for Information, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, disclosed to journalists in Gombe shortly after the state Executive Council meeting that the deal packaged in April with a 26-

week completion period was withdrawn as the construction company had neither signed the contract nor mobilised to site.

He said that the university was expecting the National University Council's (NUC) accreditation team in November and the central library happened to be a condition for securing accreditation for the accrediting a university.

Alkali reassured, however, that the inability to com-

plete the project before the arrival of the accreditation team would not scuttle the institution's chances, believing that work in progress coupled with the existing library, would be enough to convince the NUC team of the university's seriousness.

The commissioner stated that the contract had been re-awarded to SST Nigeria Limited for the same amount over 26 weeks' completion time.