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18 die, 250 villages submerged as Cameroun's dam floods Adamawa


TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2012 00:00 FROM EMMANUEL ANDE, YOLA
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IT has been a yearly occurrence. Each time Cameroun releases water from its Lado Dam, parts of Adamawa State go under with little damage.

But the incident of last Sunday has brought unmeasurable harm. Some 250 villages have been submerged with yet-to-be ascertained human casualty.



As at yesterday, only 18 bodies had been recovered from the Benue River.

The Secretary to the Adamawa State government (SSG) who is also the chairman of the flood disaster committee, Mr. Kobis T. Ari, told journalists yesterday in Yola that the disaster was as a result of the massive water released from Lado Dam in Cameroun Republic.

"We received a letter from Cameroun Republic last Friday to notify us of their intention to release water from the Lado Dam which is located at the upper end of River Benue. A day after the water was released, the Cameroun Republic did not give us enough time to communicate with our people to vacate the flood-prone areas", he stated.

Ari, who was visibly angry with the action of the Camerounian government, urged the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, contact the Camerounian authorities to ensure that full compensation was paid to the affected victims.

"The government of Nigeria should also enter into a bilateral agreement with the Camerounian government on how to avert the yearly disaster caused by Lado Dam to the people of the state", he maintained.

The chief scribe, who called on the federal to come to the aid of the state to assist the victims of the flood disaster, pointed out that the state resources could not cater for the victims of the disaster.

He added: "Since 1958 flood disaster that killed many people, this is the worst that has happened in Adamawa State. Many schools, hospitals, government buildings and over 250 villages have been submerged by the flood.

"We have written the Nigeria High Commission to Cameroun and the Foreign Affairs Minister on the flood and we are waiting for the Federal Government's action on the matter", he said.

To avoid an outbreak of disease as a result of the flood, the SSG said that medical workers have been deployed to all the affected areas to provide free medical services to the victims.

On the total number of dead persons, Ari said that the official report to his committee showed that only two bodies were recovered from River Benue.


"The state Emergency Management Agency have also deployed its workers to various areas affected by the flood to provide the victims with food, blankets and other things they need to survive before the Federal Government arrive with its assistance", he sated.

When The Guardian visited some of the affected areas in Numan, Lamurde, Fufore, Demsa, Guyuk councils and other parts of the state, some of the victims were moving massively to public school buildings to take abode.


The Guardian further learnt that seven women gave birth in a public school building in Lamurde Local Council where they were camped by the council authorities.


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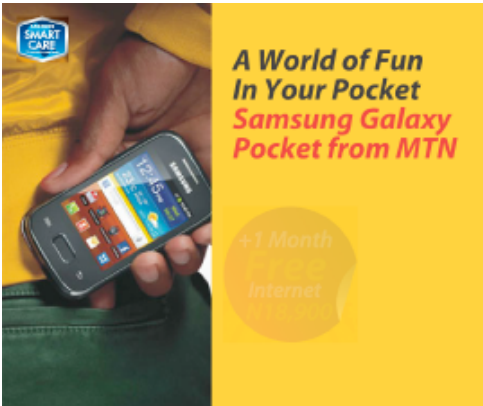
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29C

Mon

Mostly Cloudy



28C

Tue

Scattered T-Storms



28C

Wed

Scattered T-Storms

ABUJA WEATHER

27C

Mon

Mostly Cloudy



28C

Tue

AM Showers



28C

Wed

PM Showers

PORT HARCOURT WEATHER

26C

Mon

Mostly Cloudy



30C

Tue

Scattered T-Storms



28C

Wed

Scattered T-Storms

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