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No fewer than 18 bodies were at the weekend found and 22 others declared missing in a flood that ravaged some communities in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, last week.

Heads of the communities, amid tears, told the visiting Commissioner for Environment, Alhaji Majekodunmi Aborode, how the flood submerged Ariyo-Olunloyo and Foworogin, Idi Osan communities in Oluyole and Ona Ara Local Government Areas.

The commissioner was on assessment tour of the affected areas on Friday.

Residents showed him and his entourage the graves of the 18 victims buried near the bank of Ogbere River in accordance with tradition.

They said the bodies were recovered from the river after the downpour, adding that the fate of the other 22 persons was unknown.

They explained that efforts to recover their bodies had not yielded result.

By their narration, there were fears that no fewer than 40 persons might have died from the flood.

The Chairman, Landlords Association in Ariyo Olunloyo, Mr. Rasaq Gbadamosi, attributed the flood to the poor condition of the road and the bridge on the river.

Blaming the local governments for abandoning their responsibilities that could have prevented the tragedy, Gbadamosi urged the government not to pass its assistance for the victims through the local governments.

Head of Foworogi Idi-Osan community, Mr. R.A. Akin, lamented that the lorry that rescued residents from floods was submerged by the flood.

Akin explained that the residents were usually cut off for almost 24 hours by the flood each time it rained heavily and the tipper was always around to ferry the residents across the river for a fee.