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'102 died in Ibadan floods'

By [Bisi Oladele](#) 01/09/2011 00:00:00

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Senator Ajimobi (middle) and Dr Fayemi (right) at Adeoyo Hospital Road in Ibadan Southwest Local Government
Senator Ajimobi (middle) and Dr Fayemi (right) at Adeoyo Hospital Road in **Ibadan** Southwest Local Government

THE full measure of the **Ibadan** floods came to focus yesterday, with the Nigerian Red Cross saying no fewer than 102 people died in the disaster.

Its spokesman Umar Mairiga was quoted by the Associated Press (AP) as saying that it took time to have a proper casualty figure because water levels in some areas remain high as seasonal rains continue.

The police in **Ibadan** have confirmed 32 dead, even as residents insist that the death toll is higher.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), has warned that this year's rains will be heavier than last year's.

Also yesterday, Oyo State Governor Abiola Ajimobi gave a seven-day ultimatum to owners of houses and structures along the river bank to remove them or get them demolished by the government. The demolition will start on September 7, Ajimobi said.

The governor spoke at Odo-Ona Elewe during an assessment of the flooded areas.

He was accompanied by Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi on the second day of his tour of the **flood**-hit areas.

Ajimobi declared **Ibadan** “a devastated disaster area”, and described the losses suffered by residents as unquantifiable.

He said rebuilding of collapsed infrastructure could not be undertaken by the Oyo State Government alone, adding that the Federal Government’s assistance would be needed on the cause of the **flood**, Ajimobi said: “When things like this happen, you look at the cause. We believe that there are three levels. There was rain which was natural. But when it fell, water pathways had been blocked through refuse dumping and illegal construction on water ways.

“The law says you must construct your building at least 150 metres away from water ways. What we see now is that a lot of people are constructing not only on water ways but on the river bank. The water thus has no way to flow. So, the first thing is to ensure that we clear the river paths.

“The second thing is that bad construction of roads by the past administration was partly responsible. Three stages are involved in our response. Emergency response is the first thing, which is what we have been doing. We have been going round and we have been providing relief materials for the victims. We set up temporary camps providing shelter and through which our people are accessing relief materials. Some states have been helping, particularly Ekiti State. All the agencies have also been supportive – both federal and state.

“The next stage is to set up a committee that will look at how to address the situation with a view to preventing a recurrence. We will ensure that all illegal structures are removed. We are using this

opportunity to give the normal mandatory seven days notice to all those trading on drainage and road sides to vacate. By September 7, we will start removing those obstacles – be it house or trading structure. The last is to ensure that there is discipline not only among our people, but also in government.

“The town planning rules are no longer obeyed. Otherwise, you would not see people building petrol stations within metres away from each other.

“Currently, the approved distance by the government is 500 metres. It used to be 1.5 kilometres. You do not also build petrol stations in residential built-up areas because if there is fire, it will be difficult to control.

“What we are saying is that all rules and regulations must not only be obeyed but must be enforced.”

Fayemi said blocking of water channels is not peculiar to Oyo State. He recalled that his administration demolished some structures earlier in the year to free water channels.

He said **Ibadan** is his second home as it is to many Ekiti indigenes. The governor condoled with the families of those who lost their loved ones in the floods and prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the loss.

The governors were at Oke Ayo, Odo-Ona Elewe, Adeoyo and Olomi, among others.

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Boli Atepa 01/09/2011 05:12:31

I see them smiling while we are hurting. No look of worry in their faces. They look well fed while we are hungry. They are governors, we are misgoverned. They hold our destiny in their pockets. Men of the people thinking of how to award contracts from the problem. That is why they are smiling. Obe ni o!

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Detunji 01/09/2011 16:35:32

the two governors have made their marks before becoming governors of their states,that you look hungry may not be any governments' fault anyway,the problem with you is that you lack self worth,otherwise you won't call yourself 'boliatepa'.....maybe that is what you are worth after all.

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