

Scores feared killed, property destroyed as flood ravages Taraba

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Scores of people and domestic animals are feared killed after some local governments in Taraba State suffered severe flooding.

The most affected local government councils are Karim Lamido and Lau.

The flood was caused by torrential downpour, even as the people are yet to witness the anticipated release of water from a Cameroon dam.

Local boats and canoes are being used to convey affected persons, particularly children and the aged, to safer areas.

A House of Assembly member from Karim Lamido, Edward Baraya confirmed reports of disaster and death but was not certain about the casualty figure.

The Council Caretaker Chairman of Karim Lamido, Idi Danfulani, also said many residents were feared killed in his council but could not give exact figures of the dead.

In Lau, many buildings shook to their foundations while farm crops, houses and vehicles were submerged.

Governor Darius Dickson Ishaku is said to have directed all chairmen of the affected councils to forward reports of flood disaster in their domains to the Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Caretaker Chairman of Lau, Nelson Banker was seen submitting his Flood Report at the Bureau on Thursday.

Danfulani told The Nation he would be touring his entire council on Friday, to undertake detailed statistics of lives and property lost.

Taraba, which has had its share of disastrous flooding in 2015, is one of the states that lost people, houses, animals and farmlands to the devastating floods of 2012.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in a recent sensitisation workshop in Jalingo, the Taraba State capital, warned of possible flood disaster. It identified vulnerable communities that could be affected.

NEMA Head of Operation Appolos Jediel identified Lau, Shomo, Garin-Dogo, Kunini, Donadda, Bwai, Ibi, Njibu, Donga, and Takum as vulnerable communities in Taraba Northern and Southern zones.

NEMA also raised the alarm over possible release of water from the Lagdo Dam in neighbouring Cameroon in the peak of the rainy season, residents of Taraba's flood prone areas are living in fear.

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