

NO fewer than 73 have been killed in flood incidents that ravaged Adamawa and Kano states recently.

50 of the fatalities were recorded in Adamawa State while 23 casualties were recorded in Kano State.

The Adamawa flood incidents which affected 11 communities also left 71 people injured.

The Executive Secretary of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), Malam Suleiman Mohammed, and his Kano State Emergency Management Agency (KSEMA) counterpart, Dr Saleh Jili, made the disclosure in Yola and Kano respectively, yesterday.

The Executive Secretary of ADSEMA, Malam Suleiman Mohammed, blamed the flooding on the release of water from Lagdo Dam in neighbouring Cameroon.

Mohammed said also that the flood destroyed 172,000 farmlands and food crops worth millions of naira.

"Some of the affected local government areas are Numan, Shelleng, Yola South, Yola North, Demsa, Mayo Belwa and Michika," he said.

He added that the agency had provided clothes, foodstuffs, drugs, mosquito nets, blankets and buckets for victims to assuage their suffering.

"The items were donated by the state government, the Federal Government and by other donors," he said.

Mohammed also said that ADSEMA would collaborate with the National Emergency Management Agency to move affected communities to safer areas.

"We will continue to sensitise the communities about the dangers of living in flood-prone areas," he said.

Speaking at an event to mark the 2022 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) in Kano on Friday, the Executive Secretary of the Kano State Emergency Management Agency, Dr Saleh Jili disclosed that the disaster also displaced 20,399 persons, injured 100 others, destroyed 15,000 farmlands and property worth over N2.1 billion in the affected communities from April to date.

He said the agency also rescued eight people trapped in a collapsed building at GSM Market, Beirut Road in Kano

Flood: over 70 dead in Adamawa, Kano

• **ICYC others to Buhari: tackle humanitarian crisis in N'Delta, others,**
• **Jonathan officially an IDP, says Bayelsa governor**

Innocent Duru, Elo Edremoda, Warri, Mike Odiegwu, Port Harcourt, Simon Utebor, Yenagoa

metropolis.

According to him, the state government has adopted proactive mechanisms to mitigate risk and disaster across the state.

Ex-President Jonathan's home submerged by flood

Otuoke, the hometown of former President Goodluck Jonathan in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, has been ravaged by severe flood with the home of the ex-President submerged. In continuation of his assessment of the flood situation in the state, Governor Douye Diri visited the community yesterday. Speaking to journalists, Diri lamented the degree of destruction caused by what he described as an "attack by natural disaster" on the livelihood of Bayelsans.

He stressed that Otuoke, which is the host community of a federal university, had been submerged and most of the locals displaced, including the home of the Jonathans. The governor, however, urged the people not to despair, assuring them that the state government had put in place machinery to provide relief materials and medical assistance to victims of the flood. He equally empathized with the former president, who he said is now also internally displaced as a result of the flood. Diri visited the former president's mother, Madam Eunice Jonathan, in the community and assured her that the state government was with her and the people of Otuoke.

"Now I am in Ogbia, precisely at the residence of the former president of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. You can see the degree of destruction here in Otuoke. The water current is as if there is a river here. This is what I have been saying. Bayelsa is under the attack of natural disaster. The premises of our former president, and the whole

community is under attack. And this is where you also have the federal university. This situation makes the former president an IDP. Let me also use this opportunity to empathize with my leader, the former president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who has joined me as one of the IDPs because I was one of the first victims in my community."

Flood: Buhari urged to visit devastated states

President Muhammadu Buhari has been urged to visit areas, especially Niger Delta states devastated by floods.

The Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), made the call in a communiqué made available to journalists in Warri, Friday, expressing "shock and sadness" over the level of destruction recorded across the country, particularly in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states.

The group also called on the Federal Government "to urgently undertake comprehensive technical studies and plans" to solve the problem of flooding.

The statement was signed by PANDEF's National Leader, Chief Edwin Kiagbodo Clark,

the National Chairman, Senator Emmanuel Ibok Essien and four others.

According to the statement, while Bayelsa State "is now totally submerged, several communities in Delta and Rivers states are under threat of extinction and possible recovery will be prolonged and expensive."

PANDEF, while empathising with other Nigerians who have lost loved ones and properties to the ravaging floods called on President Buhari "to visit Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states, to assess the level of damage and destruction, as it's normally done all over the world."

The statement added that as measures are being put in place to tackle flooding, "building new dams like Zungeru and Kshimbila, as was undertaken by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan should be considered."

The group also charged relevant Federal Government agencies, corporate bodies and well-meaning individuals to come to the immediate aid of the affected states so as to ameliorate the plight of suffering masses.

We will address flood problems in Niger Delta, says

NDDC Acting MD

The Acting Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Emmanuel Audu-Ohwavborua, has pledged the commission will address the ravaging floods in the Niger Delta.

Speaking when he arrived at the Port Harcourt International Airport, Omagwa, on Friday, where he was received by the directors of the NDDC, Audu-Ohwavborua said under his leadership, the NDDC would always seek to do the right things.

He said: "We will do things right. We will be driven by the progress of the Niger Delta region going forward. We will not support entitlement mentality. It is not just about doing what is good but doing what is right."

"I am not new to the operations and processes of the NDDC having worked in nearly all operational areas of the Commission."

"I've been in the system, so I understand the situation and the procedures. The staff at the NDDC I'm coming to work with are known to me, especially the commission's senior cadre."

Tackle humanitarian

crisis in Bayelsa, others, IYC tells Bihari

The President of the Ijawa Youths Council (IYC) Worldwide, Comrade Peter Igbifa, has urged President Muhammadu Buhari to urgently tackle the humanitarian crisis in Bayelsa State and other parts of the Niger Delta occasioned by the ravaging floods.

Igbifa, who said the current situation in Bayelsa needed more actions than rhetorics, implored President Buhari to set machinery in motion to address the flooding situation headlong.

"Bayelsa needs serious support from the Federal Government and the world to enable it to manage in this crazy flooding event."

"Over 1,000 communities are severely affected and over 20 million people in the Niger Delta are affected directly or indirectly."

"We have seen in the course of this disaster how floods exhumed dead bodies that floated in their numbers in Bayelsa State leaving the populace to face the hazardous health, environmental and psychological challenges on a regular basis since water invasion."

"The governors of the Niger Delta states, particularly Bayelsa, are helpless and require urgent intervention to ameliorate the devastating humanitarian crisis in the state."

Igbifa warned that if the flood issues were not addressed properly, the development would have far-reaching implications for the 2023 general elections across the country.

He also lamented that since the floods ravaged many parts of the region, many presidential candidates had allegedly not shown any regard for lives and property that had been lost so far to the disaster.

He stated: "Since the floods began to ravage our people, no candidate has shown solidarity by visiting impacted areas in the region and providing palliatives to the helpless and homeless people as a result of national negligence."

"We shall only support the candidate that values the lives of the people of the Niger Delta beyond our resources and winning elections."



• Ex-president Jonathan's flooded house in Otuoke, Bayelsa State