

Flood: 16 die, 3,834 families dislodged in 19 Jigawa councils

SIXTEEN people died in a flood incident in 10 local government areas of Jigawa State, the state Emergency and Management Agency (SEMA) has said.

The Executive Secretary (ES) of the agency, Dr Haruna Mairiga, who gave the figures while fielding questions from reporters in Dutse, the state capital, also said over 3,834 families were rendered homeless and 2,744 hectares of land washed away by floods.

At the moment, he added, "Some of the victims are squatting with their relatives."

Mairiga said already, the state government had created Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps at some primary schools in the affected local government areas for the victims.

From Ahmed Rufa'i, Dutse
Atten: News Editor

The ES noted that the flooding had taken them by surprise and although NiMET, and NEMA had predicted the occurrence of the disaster, "it started earlier than the predicted time".

The affected local government areas include Buji, Kafin Hausa, Auyo, Hadejia, Birniwa, Gwaram, Malam Madori, Garki, Taura, Suletankarkar, Kaugama and Dutse.

Mairiga maintained that the government, through the agency, had swung into action, by dispatching its personnel to assess the damage. "At the moment, we are distributing relief materials to the victims," he announced.

The ES stated that the

agency has distributed relief materials to the victims: rice (400 bags), spaghetti (400 cartons), maize, mosquito nets, and sacks, among others. He added that the government has established an emergency committee, making the state government the first to establish the committee in the region.

"The Governor, Malam Umar Namadi, equipped us with necessary materials and logistics. We have enough relief materials for onward distribution to the affected victims. This is despite that some of our warehouses were vandalised and looted by mobs during the nationwide protest that was held early this month".

He commended the governor for his timely intervention to assist the affected victims.