

② Flood disaster, boat mishap claim 10 lives in Niger

THE Niger State government has commiserated with the people of Suleja and Gurumana in Shiroro Local Government Area of the state over the flood disaster and boat mishap that claimed 10 lives, the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** has reported.

In a statement on Sunday in Minna, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of the state, Mrs Mary Noel-Berje, said that the government was disturbed by the incidents.

She noted that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA) and Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NI-MET) had issued flood alerts to some council areas in the state.

She urged all residents of the areas to adhere strictly to government advice on temporary relocation and clearing of drains to avoid a repeat of the ugly incidents.

On the boat mishap in Gurumana community, Mrs Noel-Berje described it as regrettable.

She also said that the government was not relenting in its efforts to end banditry, adding that security agencies had been adequately mobilised to ensure protection of lives and property.

NAN reported that the government had, on July 13, appealed to communities around river banks, particularly the flood-prone areas and those situated on the tributaries of River Niger to be cautious and pay attention to the rising water levels in their areas.