

5 dead, houses, farmlands destroyed by flood in Bauchi, Kano

Relocate to upland areas, Delta govt warns residents in flood-prone areas

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1 THREE persons have died following a flood caused by a downpour in Adamami village in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State, just as no fewer than 200 houses collapsed and 3,000 hectares of farmland washed away.

2 It has also been reported that two persons died after a downpour in Garin Madaki in Rogo Local Government Area of Kano State.

In Bauchi, *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that residents of the village on Monday spent the night saving women and children from being trapped in the debris of collapsed buildings.

The flood occurred following a downpour that lasted for almost 14 hours between Sunday evening and Monday.

A resident of the village, Aminu Bala, who spoke to the *Nigerian Tribune* through phone on Tuesday, said about 85 per cent of the buildings in the village, which were built with mud, collapsed, while over 3,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed.

Bala, who also revealed that three persons died, lamented that Adamami and other communities had been in that situation for almost two weeks without any form of assistance from the local or state governments.

He said: "All we are appealing for is to have a heavy duty machine like an

excavator to come and dig a way for the water to pass through, but all the appeals lodged to the appropriate authorities have not been responded to."

When the *Nigerian Tribune* called the officer in charge of disaster and relief management, in the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), he said he was not in town and could not comment, while the permanent secretary in charge of the agency was not in the office when the *Nigerian Tribune* visited.

In Kano, the district head of Rogo, Muhammad Mahraz, made the revelation about the flooding on Monday while briefing the Emir of Karaye, Alhaji Ibrahim Abubakar II, at his palace.

According to a statement

issued by the Karaye emirate council spokesperson, Haruna Gunduwa, the rain of August 22 also destroyed several houses and valuables worth millions of naira.

While responding, the Emir of Karaye, Alhaji Abubakar II, urged the people to regard the incident as the will of God.

The emir also prayed for Allah's mercy to those who lost their lives and quick recovery to those injured.

Meanwhile, the Delta State government has directed residents in flood-prone areas across the state to relocate to safer grounds.

The directive is coming as several communities along the River Niger coastline in Ndokwa East Local Government Area and other areas in the core creek of the state are

being threatened by flood.

The communities include Aboh, Onya, Umuolu, Okpai, Patani, Abari, Bomadi, where residents have expressed concern over the approach of water to the land.

Addressing a press conference in Asaba, the state Commissioner for Information, Mr Charles Aniagwu, said it was important for people in the flood-prone areas to take advantage of the prolonged August break to relocate immediately so as not to be taken unawares.

According to him, the state government would not establish any internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps for victims of floods as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Despite the prolonged August break, the flood will still

come going by the predictions of NiMet and other agencies, so we are urging our people in the flood-prone areas to relocate to safer locations."

On the COVID-19 restrictions, the commissioner disclosed that churches could now hold more than one service on Sundays, but must obey the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) rules as government was taking time to gradually relax the restrictions.

Aniagwu charged religious leaders to continue to educate their faithful on Coronavirus.

He also raised the hope of business owners yet to be considered, especially those in the recreational and entertainment sectors, saying the restrictions on them would be relaxed soon.

Court remands

**Court remands
40-yr-old man**