

Four killed, several others declared missing as flood ravages Niger communities

1,000 farmlands, 200 houses, others washed away

Adelowo Oladipo | Minna

FOUR persons have been confirmed dead, while several others have been declared missing after flood ravaged two local government areas of Niger State.

The incident, which occurred on Thursday in Mashegu and Kontagora local government areas of the state, also submerged about 1,000 farmlands, while more

than 200 houses were destroyed.

The Director-General, Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Mallam Ahmed Ibrahim Inga, confirmed the deaths and destruction, just as he added that some people were still missing.

Alhaji Inga said the agency had commenced investigations into the flood to determine if it was a natural flood or excess water released

from a dam.

He said the agency was also working to determine the actual number of victims who died and properties lost to the flooding.

A resident of Kasanga Bridge area in Mashegu Local Government, Malam Abubakar Imam, told *Nigerian Tribune* that though there was no report of death in the area, he, however, said over 200 houses were destroyed, while farmlands

were washed away.

Imam appealed to governments at all levels to come to the aid of victims.

Another victim, Alhaji Murtala Salisu of Bubban Rami in Kontagora Local Government Area said the flood washed away some of his property, including over 30 bags of rice, just as he appealed to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist victims.

Police rescue 12 kidnap victims in Zamfara

THE police command in Zamfara said its operatives have rescued 11 villagers abducted from Yakofoji village on August 12, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

A statement by the command's Public Relations Officer, SP Muhammed Shehu, on Thursday in Gusau, also said the operatives rescued the Chief Security Officer of the College of Health Technology, Tsafe.

Shehu said the successes recorded followed ongoing search and rescue operations by the command across the state.

"The effort that led to the unconditional rescue was sequel to the report of abduc-

tion of 11 people by some group of hoodlums suspected to be bandits at Yakofoji village in Bakura Local Government Area on August 12.

"In a related development, the command has succeeded in the unconditional rescue of Chief Security Officer of the College of Health Technology, Tsafe.

"The report of his abduction was reported to the police in the early hours of August 18, when a group of hoodlums went to his house at about 4:00 a.m. and abducted him.

"Police search and rescue team swung into action by combing the surrounding forest. Luckily enough, the victim was rescued safely."

There will be no Sultan of Shuwa Arabs in Edo —Govt