

20 killed, 37 injured, N1b properties lost to flooding in Bauchi —SEMA

•Calls for aid support from donor agencies, individuals across the country

NO fewer than 20 people lost their lives, while 37 others sustained varying degrees of injuries as properties and goods worth over N1 billion were lost to floods caused by torrential rain in Bauchi State.

The Coordinator of the Bauchi State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr Abubakar Umar Gabarin, who made this known to journalists at the weekend, said that more deaths were recorded as the entire 20 local government areas of the state continue to be affected by floods.

Gabarin, who said that the

agency was still collating reports on flooding in parts of the state, further disclosed that 6,000 farmlands have so far been submerged, 47 culverts washed away, while 27 bridges have collapsed, which he said, now makes movements within the affected communities extremely difficult.

According to him, "We are still collating the number of casualties affected. However, we have recorded additional figures of death: we recorded additional three in Gamawa

1 LGA: we have two in Darazo

2 LGA and two in Duguri, Alka-

lerji LGA. Flood brought three dead bodies to Jama from a place we do not know".

He further disclosed that the state governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, has set up a high powered committee headed by the state Deputy Governor, Senator Baba Tela, to go round the affected areas with a view to assessing, ascertaining and bringing a comprehensive report on the damages caused by floods in communities.

He further revealed that Governor Mohammed had sent two truck loads of maize and rice as an immediate

relief measure to Kirfi Local Government Area, adding that 100 bags of rice and 100 bags of maize were sent to Glade local council by the Governor to ameliorate the suffering of the flood victims in the area.

He stressed that flood victims in Bauchi Local Government Area were given food items, blankets, cups and plates as part of efforts to assist them, while the state government was also making efforts to distribute emergency assistance to all affected communities in the state based on their needs.

Banditry: Zamfara gov shuts markets, orders shoot-at-sight