

15 bodies recovered in Maiduguri river after flood

Two boys die in Jigawa canoe accident

ABOUT 15 bodies of drowned people in the have been recovered from flooded river that affected many communities along River Ngadabul in its banks in Maiduguri have been on the increase. Maiduguri, Borno State.

The North-East Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Muhammad Usman, confirmed the development on Wednesday in an interview with the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* in Maiduguri.

Usman said the cases

of drowned people in the flooded river that affected many communities along its banks in Maiduguri have been on the increase.

He urged parents and guardians to caution their wards and children against swimming in the river to avoid drowning.

Usman, who said that the incidents of flooding in North-East have been alarming, added that "NEMA, as a disaster agency, has been engaged in serious sensitisation

of the public on dangers of flooding and precautionary measures.

"We have been having meetings with various stakeholders on sensitisation and providing relief materials to affected communities."

Meanwhile, the Borno Command of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has deployed its personnel along the river banks to chase away children trooping to the river to take a swim.

In another development, the police command in Jigawa State has confirmed the death of two boys in a canoe accident that occurred at River Miga in Miga Local Government Area of the state.

Spokesperson for the command, DSP Lawan Shiisu, stated this in a statement in Dutse on Wednesday.

Shiisu said the deceased, aged 12 and 14, lost their lives after the canoe carrying nine of them capsized on Saturday, at about 9:00p.m.

He said the incident occurred when the deceased, along with seven others, returned from a farm in Galauchime and Sansani villages.

The PPRO, however, said three of the seven of the passengers were rescued.

"On Sunday, at about 10 a.m., information from a reliable source revealed that on Saturday, at about 9:00p.m., nine farmers were returning from their farms in Galauchime village in Miga

LGA of Jigawa State.

"On reaching a river, they boarded a canoe paddled by one Ado Dan Maguga to sail to Sansani.

"Unfortunately, the canoe capsized due to the rain and wind storm.

"Seven persons were rescued while two others, Imran Rabi (12) and Tasiu Rabi (14), were not," he said.

According to him, the corpses of the children were later released to their families for burial.