

# Benue flood claimed 23 lives, injured 74 —Govt

**Johnson Babajide | Makurdi**

ABOUT 23 people were reportedly killed, with 74 others injured as flood ravaged some parts of Benue State.

Executive Secretary of the State Emergency and Maintenance Agency (SEMA), Dr Emmanuel Shior, stated this during the distribution of relief materials to flood victims on Tuesday, in Makurdi, the state capital, on Tuesday.

Shior said that 11 local government areas of Guma, Vandeikya, Otukpo, Katsina Ala, Makurdi, Apa, Agatu, Tarka, Gboko, Gwer West and Logo were affected.

He said that 116,084 people were displaced across the state, 14,040 hectares of land were washed away, adding that 12,856 households were displaced as well as 4,411 houses submerged.

"As of the time we received the flood prediction in July, we activated major plans and embarked on sensitisation and awareness campaign and did jingle on the pending flood," he said.

"But some people waited for it to happen and refused to relocate and this has affected many people, companies, schools and other structures," he added.

The SEMA boss said that flood had contaminated sources of water in some parts of the state, adding that the Federal Government, through the National Emergency and Maintenance Agency (NEMA), brought a truck of machine to purify water for people's consumption.

He also said that 8,000 cubic water was purified on Monday and distributed to affected people in Makurdi.