

Plateau flood claims 19 lives

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

NO fewer than 19 persons lost their lives while hundreds were rendered homeless in a flood in Wase Local Government of Plateau State on Sunday.

Properties worth millions on naira were also said to have been lost in the flood, which followed a downpour in the area.

The victims included 11 of about 20 people who drowned when the canoe they boarded from a neighbouring village to Wadata capsized. The remaining were said to have swam to safety.

Reports also said that about 15 villages, including Gyambai, Kukawa, Luwe, Anguwan Gar, Wase Tofa, Zango, Gandu, Gwuiwan Kogi, and part of Wase town were seriously affected.

The Advisory Committee Chairman of the local government, Alhaji Abubakar Mohammed, who confirmed the incidence to our correspondent on Monday, said several people were displaced as a result of the flood which occurred at the early hours of Sunday.

The chairman explained that the bodies of two of the victims were yet to be recovered in the flood which has devastated the communities in the area.

The committee chairman, who was visibly disturbed by the level of the disaster, described the incident as devastating, adding that the condition of displaced persons was pathetic in view of the harsh weather in the area.

The displaced persons, Mohammed said, had taken refuge at Duvic Primary

School in Wase town while many others had moved to Kanam or Langtang.

He said, as a remedial measure, the council had distributed over 100 bags of maize, 200 blankets, 500 mats and other consumables to the displaced persons.

According to him, the local government authority will ensure that those affected are given assistance, while calling on the state government and the national

emergency relief agency to come to the aid of the victims.

Officials of the National Emergency Management Authority were said to have visited the local government area to see the extent of damage.

The flood was said to have also affected some parts of Langtang North, Langtang South and Kanam Local governments, all in the Southern zone of the state.

Tribunal dismisses ANPP

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

THE Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, on Monday, dismissed the petition challenging the election of an Action Congress lawmaker in the state House of Assembly, Mr. Samuel Oyedele, for lacking in merit.

The All Nigeria Peoples Party candidate for Afijio Constituency in the April 14 Assembly election, Chief Ojo Akindele, had petitioned the tribunal claiming that the AC candidate was not eligible to contest the election.

The judgment became the second to be delivered by the tribunal since it began sitting on