

# Osinbajo, Saraki, ACF sympathise with Katsina flood victims

---

**Published** July 18, 2018



**Oladimeji Ramon, Olaide Oyelude and Godwin Isenyo**

The Vice-President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, on Tuesday assured victims of Sunday's rainstorm/flooding incident at Jibiya, Katsina State of the Federal Government assistance.

Osinbajo gave the assurance at Jibiya while addressing those displaced as a result of the incident.

The Vice-President arrived at about 6.15pm at the Muhammadu Rabi'u Model Primary School complex, Jibiya, where those displaced were being temporarily accommodated.

He was accompanied by the Katsina State Governor, Aminu Masari.

Osinbajo said, “The President has told me to assure everybody that where compensation is necessary, we will compensate.

“We shall make sure that this sort of thing does not repeat itself. We pray this kind of thing does not repeat itself.”

Earlier, the VP inspected the areas worst hit by the flood.

Meanwhile, the Senate President, Bukola Saraki, and the Arewa Consultative Forum have sympathised with victims of the flood.

Saraki, in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Yusuph Olaniyonu, described the floods in Katsina and Ogun states as a nightmare.

He said, “What happened in Katsina and Ogun states was a nightmare. We have a duty to play our role to ensure that this avoidable loss of precious lives does not repeat itself both in the affected communities and elsewhere in the country.”

While calling on town planning agencies to take their job more seriously, he called on Nigerians in flood-prone areas to heed the warnings of the Nigerian Metrological Agency so as to prevent further loss of lives and property.

On its part, the ACF, in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Muhammad Ibrahim-Biu, said, “The forum acknowledges the efforts of both the Katsina State and Federal Governments emergency management agencies, other public-spirited individuals and groups for rendering

humanitarian assistance to the displaced persons now living in makeshift camps.

“The ACF, however, urges the agencies to do more in order to ameliorate the suffering of the displaced persons.”

The ACF prayed to God to restore the displaced persons.

Meanwhile, the Muhammadu Rabiyyu Model Primary School complex along Kaura Namoda Road, Jibiya, Katsina State has now become a temporary home for over 100 households displaced as a result of last Sunday overnight rainstorm.

The rainstorm officially claimed 44 lives and washed away 500 houses in the Katsina State border town of Jibiya.

The displaced persons, numbering about 5,000, are being taken care of by officials of the State Emergency Management Agency and their National Emergency Management Agency counterparts.

Other voluntary agencies, including members of Nigeria Aids Group, were also seen attending to the displaced people during a visit on Tuesday by our correspondent.

A resident, who gave his name as Balarabe Yusufu, said many people were swept away by the heavy flood which occurred between 11 pm on Sunday and 4 am on Monday.

Yusufu, a civil servant, said “The 44 being claimed as the number of casualties was an official figure and it was based on the number of bodies recovered. The heavy flooding swept off several people while they were sleeping as their houses collapsed on them.

A 48-year-old farmer, Ismaila Ayuba told The PUNCH that he lost two children to the rainstorm in addition to his valuables.

Ayuba gave the names of the children as Rabi, 7 and Muhammad, 3.

He said, “I am now left with nothing. I lost a house, two goats and everything I had in the flood.

“Only God saved me too as the water flooded the whole house before it collapsed about 3 am. My wife and I had to swim through the flood. Unfortunately, the children could not and they were swept off. Up to now, we have not seen their corpses.”

A 70-year-old woman, Hajiya Badiya Ashiru, said in addition to losing a house to the flood, she also lost about N3m kept in her care.

A top SEMA official, who pleaded anonymity, said no additional corpse had been found.

Meanwhile, sympathisers were still thronging the school complex to see the displaced persons.

However, the corpse of a 20-month-old boy, Jafaar Shaibu, was found on Tuesday evening shortly before the arrival of the Vice-President.

The corpse, according to the mother of the deceased boy, Aminatu Shaibu, was buried immediately.