

Five killed, 1,000 families displaced in Bauchi flood

Armstrong Bakam, Bauchi

FLOOD caused by the torrential rainfall has displaced 1000 families, destroyed 60,000 farmlands and 500 houses in the Jama'are Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

A member representing Jama'are Constituency at the state House of Assembly, Saleh Muhammad, who made the revelation during plenary session, also said five persons lost their lives during a boat accident in the community.

Abdul Burra, the spokesperson for the Speaker of the House, Abubakar Sulaiman, who confirmed the development to our correspondent, said Muhammad did not state how or when the incident happened.

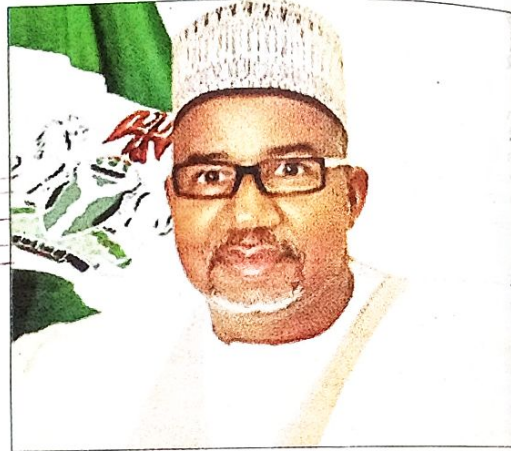
Leading debate on the

motion, he said the lawmaker lamented the devastation caused by floods in the local government, revealing that no fewer than 500 houses were destroyed and about 1,000 families had been displaced.

Burra also stated that the lawmaker said the displaced families were now taking shelter in schools, government buildings, mosques and neighbouring villages, adding that 60,000 hectares of farmlands of various crops valued at several millions of naira were destroyed during the incident.

He explained that Muhammad called on the Speaker of the House to urge the state government to come to the aid of the victims of the flood that devastated Jama'are and its surroundings.

The lawmaker was quoted to



• Bauchi Gov, Bala Mohammed

have said, "Jama'are town and its surrounding villages had been hit by a very devastating

flood that rendered several people homeless. The flood is estimated to have destroyed

over 500 houses and displaced about 1,000 families. It also ravaged more than 60,000 hectares of farmlands and destroyed farm produce estimated at several hundreds of millions of naira.

"It is disheartening to inform you that, hundreds of houses and several hectares of farmlands of the following villages were destroyed by the recent flooding and their residents are currently seeking shelter at public schools, government buildings, mosques and neighboring villages in Yola, Dakodako, Gongo, Gilar, Sabongari, Jogayel, Jabbori, Bodinga, Guda, among others, are disconnected in Jama'are town, amongst others.

"These villages have been disconnected from Jama'are town, there is no access road

leading to the local government headquarters, all the culverts have been broken down, eroded and taken away by the flood. Equally, no fewer than five persons reportedly lost their lives when a canoe capsized as a result of heavy rains and windstorm in Jama'are town. The flood damaged countless infrastructures and cut many roads.

Burra said the lawmaker explained that Jama'are LGA had been experiencing annual flooding during the rainy season, adding that the town was vulnerable to flooding due to the presence of a river in the area.

"He urged the lawmakers to resolve that the state government should come to the aid of the people of Jama'are Constituency," he said.

Responding, the Speaker

who presided over the plenary said the motion required no further debate since members of the house had already

discussed similar matters on flooding. The Honourable House unanimously adopted the motion.

Motorcyclist bags life sentence for raping nine-year-old girl

Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti

An Ekiti State High Court, Ado Ekiti Division, has sentenced a 31-year-old motorcyclist, Idowu Adebayo, to life imprisonment for raping a nine-year-old girl.

The defendant was first arraigned on one-count bordering on rape before Justice Olalekan Olatawura in March, 2022.

The charge read in part, "That the defendant on October 8, 2021, at Ilogbo Ekiti, in Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State, did rape a nine-year-old girl, contrary to Section 31(2) of the Child's Rights Law, Cap. C7, Laws of Ekiti State, 2012."

In her testimony before the court, the victim said she was fetching water when the suspect asked her to get something for her grandmother.

"I stood by the door, he asked me to enter, but I refused. He forced me to his room, covered my mouth with his hand, he used the other hand to remove his trouser and started forcing his penis into my private parts.

"I shouted but nobody could hear me because he covered my mouth. I wept because my vagina

was paining me and he warned me not to tell anybody.

"When I got home, I did not tell my grandmother, but on the second day, when I could not walk properly, my grandmother asked what happened and I told her what Oga Idowu did to me," the minor said.

The prosecutor, Julius Ajibare, called five witnesses and tendered the defendant's statement and medical report as exhibits.

The defendant, however, spoke in his own defence through his counsel and called two witnesses.

In his judgment, Justice Olalekan Olatawura said, "Identification of the defendant by the victim as the person who raped her is not only compelling, but credible, same not having been discredited under cross examination and therefore not mistaken."

"In all, I find established and proved beyond reasonable doubt by the prosecution that the defendant and no other person used his penis to penetrate the vagina of the victim. Consequently thereupon, the defendant is found guilty as charged. He is hereby sentenced to life imprisonment."

Lagos policeman falls sick after duty, dies in hospital

Dayo Oyewo and Hannah Johnson



THE family of an Inspector serving with the Ago Palace Police Division of the Lagos State Police Command, Jeremiah Omega, has been thrown into mourning after he returned from work, slumped and died during treatment in a hospital in the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered that

who came with a car.

"It was at that point that I knew that he was about to be taken to the hospital. But by the time they brought him out of the room, he could not walk by himself."

not even attend to the children.

"He also told his wife that he wanted to rest, but she felt something was wrong with him due to the way he was behaving. When she touched his body, she said her husband started feeling pains, so she called me.

"I left home immediately and by the time I could get to their house, she had already taken him to hospital with the assistance of the neighbour. By the time I got to the hospital, he had been placed

"When the result came out, it was stated that his death had to do with his sugar level and high blood pressure."

Our correspondent gathered that the late policeman's corpse had been taken to his home town in Kogi State to perfect his burial rites.

Efforts by our correspondent to speak to the Omega's wife, who had been inconsolable by her

husband's death, proved abortive.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed the development, saying Omega's wife informed the command after he started behaving strangely when he returned from work.

He said, "The wife called his office, said he was stooling when he got home and was taken to the hospital where he passed away."

Lagos driver steals employer's property on resumption day