

# Four confirmed dead in Bauchi floods



•The flooded area

Umar Sani

**T**HE Bauchi State Emergency Management Agency has confirmed the death of four people as flood persisted in some communities of the state.

The Director General of the agency, Mas'ud Aliyu, made the confirmation in an exclusive interview with *PUNCH Metro* on the lingering flooding in the state.

He explained that the deaths of the four people occurred in flood disaster-ravaged communities in Shira, Giade, and Katagum Local Government Areas of Bauchi State.

"Giade, Katagum, and Shira Local Government Areas are the LGs most disturbed by the flood.

"This has led to the state government sending a delegation under the leadership of the Secretary to State Government, Commissioners of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Commissioner of Housing and Environment and Commissioner of Finance, and the Director General SEMA to assess the areas affected."

The DG added that in the three local governments, large farmlands had been occupied by the flood.

\* "The flood has destroyed the houses of many people. In Giade, there is no loss of life, only farms, animals, and other domestic materials.

① "In Shira farms were loss of houses and the death of three persons. Then, in Katagum Local Government Area, farmlands and houses were destroyed and one individual

was lost," the DG continued.

According to him, the lives lost were a result of a building collapse as well as the flood submerging the deceased.

He also counted as part of the destruction caused by the flood a collapsed bridge, leaving travellers stranded.

Mas'ud said, "In Katagum, there is a road cut off on the way to Bulkachuwa, and another road from Azare to Jama'are. Likewise, there are two road collapses on the Azare to Giade and another road from Shira to Azare which may cut any moment from now."

He restated that thousands of hectares of farmland were occupied by the flood.

The SEMA director urged residents of the state residing in waterways to vacate their houses as there were more flood threats in many areas.

"All those in waterways and areas with a history of flood should do themselves the favour of vacating their houses," the DG stressed.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered from the caretaker committee chairman, Katagum LGA, Musa Azare, that a community, Sabon Gari, on the outskirts of Azare town was completely submerged by the floods.

He highlighted that 35 communities across the local government were affected by the floods.

The chairman also acknowledged the donation of food items and other domestic materials by the state government to the affected communities.

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