

Tears in Adamawa as 11 killed after nine-hour downpour

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Adamawa State Governor, Ahmadu Fintiri

By Emmanuel Ande

Little did it occur to Adamawa State residents that the repeated prayers by both the Christian and Muslim faithful penultimate week calling for rain in the state may turn out to be a disaster instead of blessing.

True to their supplications and plea for the rains, they came, but not in just mild showers but torrents and heavy downpour as the heavens indeed opened up in request to the prayers.

Arewa PUNCH reports that Adamawa State farmers had suffered draught for 56 days, a situation that forced both the Christian and Muslim faithful to embark on prayers and fasting in their large numbers begging God to end the

draught

However, when their prayers were answered last week, tears also flowed in the state as the residents watched the rains destroy lives and properties.

Speaking with *Arewa PUNCH* in an exclusive interview via a phone call on Saturday night, the chairman of Madagali Local Government Area, Mr. Simon Musa Shashe lamented that the “trouble rain started around 1am, and after nine hours, when the rains subsided over 11 dead bodies were seen floating on the already flooded drainage paths, roads and streets.

“The heavy water came from the mandara mountain, swept away the Shuwa bridge, cutting away the Madagali Local Government from other local government areas in the state,” he further disclosed.

On the number of casualties, he said that six dead bodies were initially recovered, and another five dead bodies were later seen floating on the river without clear identity of where the corpses were coming from.

He added, “we the people of Madagali Local Government can not go to Borno State and we can not go to our state capital, because the only bridge linking the two states has been washed away by flood last week just as the bridge that linked us with Yola the state capital is collapsed.”

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Musa called on the security agencies to fashion out new measures to provide more security within the Madagali Local Government Area, pointing out that the residents no longer have any escape routes in case of any attack by the insurgents.

However, the LGA boss said that the governor sent five trucks of food stuffs and non-consumables materials for distribution to the victims of the flood.

When *Arewa PUNCH* visited the affected communities on Saturday, our correspondent noted that among the worst hit villages by the flood are Governor Ahmadu Fintiri's village in Kirchinga, Shuwa, Mildu, Mayo-wandu, Shuware, Pambla, Jihili and Palam.

Deeply devastated by the sad situation, Fintiri called on the Federal Government to intervene and ensure that the affected persons get the necessary assistance to cushion their suffering.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy, Professor Kaletapwa Farauta, while delivering the items, advised the victims to move to higher dry lands, pointing out that the heavy down will continue for a while.

"I think it is only proper for people that are settling along water ways to relocate, not only in Madagali local government, but the entire state. There are strong signals that there will be heavy downpour this year based on Nimet's predictions," he said.

In his assessment of the Madagali Local Government flood, the Head of Operations, Yola office of the National Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Ayuba Ladan said that over 10,000 people were displaced, and ten others injured during the sad incident.

Ladan said that the Madagali Local Government, in collaboration with the Nigeria Red Cross, has established eight Internally Displaced Person's camps to cater to the well-being of the survivors.