

ing of heavy rain for indigenous people, yesterday.

2 die as flood destroys houses in Gombe

From **Ali Abare**,
Gombe

TWO minors, a male and female, whose ages ranged between two and three, died during an early morning rain that was accompanied by heavy flood which destroyed over 1,000 houses in three communities; Dadin Kowa, Yamaltu and Deba Local Government areas of Gombe State, yesterday.

Daily Sun saw the corpses of the minors, in Tunga local government area

A resident, Usman Baba, suffered a fracture on his leg after a building collapsed while two other persons were reported missing, and several goats swept away by the flood.

When *Daily Sun* visited the flooded areas, hundreds of residents were seen attempting to salvage remnants of property from buildings destroyed by the flood. Residents described the flood as the worst in recent times, with over a thousand houses in Yelwa, Tunga and Hinna destroyed by the flood.

A victim, Salisu Shuaibu, 38 and a father of six said he lost his entire property except for some few items he was able to salvage from the room of his wife before the flood demolished his five-room building.

Shuaibu, a commercial driver said he was preparing to go out for the day's work when the rain began.

"At first, I thought it was

a drizzle, but it became a torrent. Soon, water from River Dauda overran its banks and our houses became submerged.

"At a point in time, the water level was up to my neck. I was however able to evacuate my children before the water destroyed the building," he narrated.

In another compound housing three families of 14, a victim, Kulun Kaka, 52, narrated that she lost all her property with her 14 year old son barely escaping being carried away by the flood.

"We have nowhere to sleep for now but we will seek solace from neighbours," she said.

A member of Gombe House of Assembly repre-

senting Yamaltu/Deba, Dr. Bature Usman Gwani, constituency, while assessing the level of damage at the scene, described the flood as a national disaster.

"This is a national disaster. I have never expected this scale of damage.

Hundreds of houses have been destroyed by the flood. The people have suffered a disaster," he said.

The lawmaker said he will take the matter before relevant agencies with a view to bringing succour to the victims.

Head, Rescue and Rehabilitation at the Gombe State Emergency Management Agency, Mohammad Garba, disclosed that its officials were already at the scene of the flood to assess the level of damage.

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