

23 die, 116,084 displaced as flood submerges Benue

From **Rose Ejembi** and **Scholastica Onyeka**, Makurdi

THE Benue State Government has stated that 23 people have died with 116,084 others displaced by recent ravaging floods in the state.

The Executive Secretary of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr Emmanuel Shior, made the disclosure while briefing newsmen in his office in Makurdi, yesterday.

Shior also disclosed that 11 out of the 23 local government areas in the state have been affected by the flood, including Guma, Vandeikya, Otukpo, Katsina-Ala, Makurdi, Apa, Agatu, Tarka, Gboko, Gwer West and Logo. He said 74 people have also been injured with 12, 856 households displaced, while 4,411 houses were either lost or submerged in the flood.

While he noted that the government was still profiling the affected people, the SEMA boss said the state government would be providing food stuffs, including thousands of bags of rice and cartons of

noodles to the affected people. He said: "In Agatu, most people have left their homes and are taking refuge on the highways," a development he described as dangerous, saying the government has evacuated the affected people to safer havens in Ogbagaji, while others were being profiled.

While noting that the entire water sources in Makurdi and its environs have been polluted, he said the federal government, through the National Emergency Management

Nigeria, Niger Republic parley on terrorism, b

From **Agaju Madugba**, Katsina

CONVEYED at the instance of the Governor of Maradi Region of the neighbouring Niger Republic, Chiabou Aboubacar, governors of banditry-ravaged states of Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi met yesterday at the Katsina State Government House over activities of terrorists in the two countries and border security.

Governors of Katsina, Aminu Bello Masari, Sokoto,

Agency (NEMA), has also sent a truck with a machine for water purification to provide the affected people with drinking water, so as to prevent an outbreak of diseases.

"I have been in talks with the coordinator of NEMA in the North Central and have been assured that the federal government is mobilising the zonal office with non food items; mattresses, mats, blankets and mosquito nets have started arriving. He expressed hope that as the materials ar-

rive, the state would reach out to all the affected people in the state.

The Director General, NEMA, Mustapha Habib, represented by the Principal Officer, Research and Rescue, John Digha, commiserated with the people and government of Benue State over the flood.

He explained that the water treatment truck provided by the agency was the first phase of interventions.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Kebbi State Deputy Governor, Samaila Yaubai, and Deputy Governor of Zamfara State, Hassan Mohammed Nasiha, were present at the event.

Apparently reliving similar experiences of citizens in parts of Nigeria, the Maradi Region governor said: "We are in trouble because terrorists have denied us sleeping with our two eyes closed.

"Participants at this meeting are one family, hence, we deem it necessary to sort our-

selves out at mitigating the menace."

Also decrying activities of bandits and general insecurity in his state, Masari said that the government had taken a number of initiatives to tackle the problem.

He said his administration had, among other measures, built the capacity of traditional rulers and local government administrators, to deal with emerging real and potential threats in their areas of administration, through local