

One killed, 37 communities submerged in Benue flood



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By **Correspondents**

A

middle aged man, identified as Mr. Peter Otowo, a resident of Obagaji, Agatu Local Government Area, Benue state, has drowned in the river following flood which wrecked havoc in the area.

A native of the local government, Mr. John Ikwulono told Sunday Telegraph that the deceased was said to have gone to check his farm which was flooded when he met his untimely death.

The flood also submerged schools, power installations, and rice farms in 37 communities in the LGA.

The disaster rendered hundreds of residents' homeless as they now take refuge along the Guto-Oweto highway in the state.

The flood occurred as a result of an overflow of the River Benue could not contain the release of excess water from the Lagdo Dam from the neighboring Republic of Cameroon.

Residents of Utugolugu, one of the communities worse hit, lamented in an interview that they have been victims of floods since 2012.

The floods hit the communities while the people of Agatu, one of the worst-hit areas in the state from the many years of herdsmen attacks, were yet to recover from the killings.

During a visit to some of the affected areas, Sunday Telegraph uncovered a submerged transformer which holds great danger for anyone who attempts any form of evacuating their belongings.

The most dangerous part of the flood was a twenty-minute boat ride to Utugolugu where the entire community was submerged.

Residents in this community practically live in the water, cook on elevated wooden platforms, and sleep on the roofs of their houses.

Two of the residents, Oigene Haruna and Queen Matthew, in interview with the Weekly urged the government to come to their rescue, saying the suffering was much for them.

According to them, their children have no access to their school and no functional hospital while they have continued to live right inside the water for more than three months.

The lawmaker representing Agatu State Constituency in the Benue State House of Assembly, Godwin Edoh, and the Ada'Agatu, Godwin Onah, told our correspondent that the situation requires government's urgent intervention.

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