

# Mokwa Flood: Death toll hits more than 200, over 500 missing – Officials

**T**he death toll after deadly floods hit the Niger State town of Mokwa, last Thursday, has risen to more than 200, officials have said.

There are still 500 people missing in the town in north-central Niger State, as a search mission continues.

The deputy chairman of Mokwa Local Government Area (LGA), Musa Kimboku, told the BBC that rescue efforts have ceased because authorities no longer believe there could still be survivors.

The floods, said to be the worst in the area for 60 years, swept through the towns of Tiffin Maza and Anguwan Hausawa after a bout of torrential rain.

In an effort to prevent disease in the area, authorities will soon start to dig out corpses buried underground, Mokwa's district head, Muhammadu Aliyu, said.

Recounting scenes of ca-

tastrophe, local residents told the BBC that they saw their homes and family members being washed away.

A survivor, one Adamu Yusuf, lost his wife and newborn baby.

"I watched helplessly as water washed away my family. I survived because I could swim," he told the BBC.

Another resident, Saliu Sulaiman, said the floods had left him homeless and destroyed some of his cash business profits.

"I lost at least \$1,500 to the floods. It was the proceeds from the sale of my farm produce the previous day. I contemplated going back into the room to get it, but the pressure of the water scared me."

Yesterday, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) announced it had started the process of providing relief packages to people affected.