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## **Night rain tragedy: 15 die in Fagge, 100 houses destroyed ...Kwankwaso condoles with victims**

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FIFTEEN people were confirmed dead while over 100 houses were destroyed as a result of torrential rain Tuesday night in Fagge Local Government Area of Kano state.

The unfortunate incident occurred between 2-4am due to a blockage of the main Kwarin Gogau drainage, thereby causing flooding which destroyed the houses and killed some of the victims.

The areas affected by the flooding include Layin Dabinai, Lungun Shehu Karaye, Layin Bashir Tashi, Layin Maikashin Rago, Layin Shehu Azare, Layin Makwalla, Layin Kampala, Layin Rasha, Layin Yantaya and Layin Plaza among others.

According an eye witness, one Bashir Lawan Danayi of Layin Dabinai, who was also among the good Samaritans who rescued some of the victims, " I saw a 14-year old girl trying to rescue her junior brothers, but as she tried to do that, the roofing of the house collapsed on them and they all instantly died."

He told our reporters that the rescue operation jointly undertaken by men of the fire service and the good samaritans took about two hours.

The father of the four dead children, Malam Labaran Umar Labbo said the deceased include Hadiza, Aisha, Hafsat and a 16 month old baby, Bashir.

He, however, said what happened was an act of Allah, calling for assistance from the relevant authorities.

Daily Triumph reports that scores suffered some injuries, as even only one Hajiya Yalwa Muhammad was admitted at the Accident and Emergency Unit of Murtala Muhammad Specialists Hospital.

Commenting on the incident, member representing Fagge constituency in the state House of Assembly, Hon. Yusuf Abdullahi Ata who expressed shock over the episode, said that he will collaborate with the Fagge local council and Kano State Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SERARA) to provide immediate assistance to the victims.

Hon. Ata said he would ensure the scooping out of the refuse from the drainage, adding that it is imperative to undertake effective work and renovation of the drainage which for years has been causing havoc.

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Also speaking to Daily Triumph, the Interim Management Officer of Fagge, Alhaji Abdullmalik Ismaila Rogo who was also at hand to inspect the scene of the incident, said the council would immediately look for either a primary school or the Fagge Islamic Centre to accommodate the surviving victims.

He called on Non-Governmental Organizations, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), philanthropists and other relevant authorities to come to the aid of the victims.

Asked at the scene of the incident on the number of the deceased and those injured, the OC Operations of the State Fire Service, Kassim Musa, said they were yet to know the number of dead because they just took over from those on night duty.

Another victim, Alhaji Jibrin Shuaibu Ala noted that one of the causes of the incident is the way tyre sellers place their wares along the road which according to him does greatly affect the free flow of water in the drainages.

He told Daily Triumph that he had at one time reported the matter to KNUPDA over the attitude of the tyre sellers, but nothing was done.

It could be recalled that flooding has been occurring for several years especially during the rainy season but the situation is yet to be addressed.

Meanwhile, Governor Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso of Kano state has condoled with the families of those who lost their lives and sympathized with those who sustained injuries as a result of the disaster.

The governor who led his deputy, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and other members of his cabinet were conducted round the affected buildings where he offered special prayers to those who lost their lives.

Similarly, the governor was at Sabon Sara quarters in the municipality where he condoled with the family of late Alhaji Munnir Abubakar Matawalle who died on Sunday at the age of 54 after a protracted illness leaving behind one wife, 10 children and many relatives.

Among the relatives of the deceased is his elder brother, Dr. Hafizu Abubakar of Bayero University Kano, who is a strong PDP stalwart in the state, among others.