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Mr Mustafa Allah-Dey, Chairman, Kogi branch of the Nigeria Red Cross Society, disclosed this in Lokoja at the weekend during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He said six persons died when the canoe in which they were trying to escape from the flood capsised.

Allah-Dey said that the incident happened late on Thursday evening at Banda Village around the Lokoja-Abuja highway.

He said that Red Cross officials who had arrived at the village to rescue victims of the flood could not help due to the high water current, adding that some youths who had joined his organisation in the rescue bid, did their best to no avail.

Allah-Dey said that the flooding problem was getting out of hand as more people were being displaced from their residences in Lokoja and the adjoining communities.

The Red Cross chairman said the development had forced the state government to establish two additional camps in Kabawa and Gadumo areas of Lokoja town.

He expressed the fear that the situation might degenerate in the next couple of days as the Federal Government had issued a fresh signal to discharge more waters from Kainji, Shiroro and Jebba dams.

As of Thursday evening, Allah-Dey said there were enough relief materials at the camp in Adankolo area of Lokoja.

He, however, stressed the need to move more materials to cope with the increasing number of victims.

Mark, who was in Lokoja, visited some of the flooded parts of the Kogi capital and expressed shock at the level of devastation.

Accompanied on the visit by Gov. Idris Wada and his deputy, Mr Yomi Awoniyi, former Sen. Tunde Ogbeha and top government functionaries, Mark visited

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Kabawa and Ganaja road where many houses had been taken over and hundreds of people displaced.

“This is very sad. It is the worst in the last 30 years. It took us by surprise. Thank God, the state government was smart enough to give early warnings and evacuate victims,” Mark said at Ganaja road.

At the St. Luke's Primary School, Adankolo camp, the Senate president donated N500,000 for the purchase of tea, milk, water, bread and other food items for the victims.

Mark, who said that women and children should not be allowed to suffer, directed NEMA officials to urgently come to the aid of displaced persons.

He charged the officials and the displaced persons to keep the camp neat to prevent an outbreak of diseases.

The Red Cross said that more than 300 persons were currently being housed in the camp.

At Banda village on the Lokoja-Abuja highway which has been under water for the second day running, the FRSC said that it had narrowed the road to one lane and had stationed its officials there to control movement of vehicles.

Mr Isaac Martins, Head of Operations at the State Sector Command of the FRSC, disclosed this to NAN correspondent.

He said the development had led to traffic gridlock on the road, urging road users to bear with the situation.

He said the organisation with assistance of the officials of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and some youths from the nearby villages had taken it upon itself to guide vehicles through the water.

Martins said that FRSC officials would be on the road till the water receded.

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