

Edo Assembly raises alarm as rainstorm kills toddler, destroys 1,000 houses

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By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN—FOLLOWING the rainstorm that led to the death of a little baby and the destruction of over 1,000 houses in Edo North senatorial district, the state House of Assembly, Tuesday, passed a resolution urging the state government to urgently deploy the State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, to the area to provide relief materials to the victims.

The House further called for a law that will strengthen funding for SEMA to enable the agency act promptly each time there is an emergency in any part of the state.

A little child died at Ido Ogriga in Okpella, Etsako West Local Government Area with over 100 houses and properties destroyed, while several houses were also destroyed at Igarra, Akoko-Edo council.

The member representing Etsako East constituency, Kingsley Ogabi, who moved the motion described the incident as pitiable, particularly the child that died as a result of the flood, just as he lamented that hundreds of indigenes have been declared [homeless](#), while business activities and schooling for students have been rendered impossible.

His motion was supported by the Deputy Speaker, Elizabeth Ativie, Damian Lawal and Crosby Eribo (Egor constituency), who declared that “it is not only when something like this happens that we will come here and start moving a motion for SEMA to act.

“Please a little child has died and people are homeless, so we must act immediately by asking the state government to mobilise SEMA to provide relief materials to these victims.”

Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Justin Okonoboh, said: “Urgent action is needed in this matter because our people are homeless and a lovely child has died.

We urge the state government to take action immediately in the interest of our [brothers](#) and sisters in Edo North.”

The Palace Secretary of the *Otaru* of Igarra, Elder Folorunsho Dania, said not less than 60 houses were affected in Igarra.

He said: “Along the Comprehensive High School junction, about five houses were affected; seven were affected along Secretariat Road and no fewer than 10 along Momodu Ajayi Road.

“In other areas of the [town](#), about 60 houses were affected. We appeal for assistance from the necessary [authorities](#).”