

The operation has led to the their confessional statements, would be made public soon.

# Flood sweeps away 6-year-old boy, sacks 32 villages in Benue

By Peter Duru

**MAKURDI**—A six-year-old boy was swept away by flood, following four days of torrential rainfall in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

The flood, which also submerged 32 villages in the Agatu, swept away all the houses and valuables in the affected villages and rendering over 4,000 persons homeless.

Vanguard gathered from a source in the area that over 100 fish ponds in the affected villages were also submerged in the disaster.

The source told Vanguard, "more than 100 fish ponds were submerged because fishing is the major occupation of our people. As we speak, most of the fishing communities of Agatu have been submerged.

"We need help from the Federal Government because the situation at the moment is beyond the local and state governments. We are yet to recover from the trauma of herdsmen killings in Agatu, then this."

Confirming the development, Chairman of Agatu Local Government Area Caretaker Committee, Mr. Usman Suleiman, said he had already written the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, alerting them of the development.

Mr. Suleiman said he also

visited the affected areas in the company of Coordinator of Christian Aid in the area and the Local Emergency Management Agency Desk Officer, adding that the incident had created a huge humanitarian crisis in the area.

## Police nab 5 robbers in Katsina

By Bashir Bello

**KATSINA**—A five-man gang of notorious robbers terrorising Katsina metropolis has been busted by men of the Katsina State Police Command.

The commands spokesperson, Gambo Isah, who confirmed the arrest in a release, said one of the gang members was still at large.

Isah said the five suspects were arrested in connection with an attack on one Alhaji Halilu Isiyaku Maje, who visited Unguwar

Tudun Matawalle area of Katsina to take care of his younger brother that was sick.

According to him, "On September 24, at about 10p.m., the Command succeeded in smashing a notorious syndicate of robbers terrorising Katsina metropolitan area.

"Nemesis caught up with the hoodlums when they attacked and robbed one Alhaji Halilu Isiyaku Maje of Charanchi council of Katsina State, when he visited his sick brother at Unguwar Tudun Matawalle

He said: "I have also directed the victims to relocate to Usha community and other safer places to prevent further loss of lives, while we wait for intervention and assistance from individuals and the government."

Katsina.

"The victim was coming out of his vehicle when the hoodlums attacked him and robbed him of his handset. The suspects confessed to the commission of the offence and investigation is ongoing."

Isah identified the suspects arrested as Salisu Uzairu, Jamilu Abdulrashid, Aminu Adamu, Haruna Shuaibu and Miniyati Hakilu, while Umar Ali, is now at large; all within the age bracket of 18 and 22 years.

Meanwhile, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, Lagos Command, yesterday, said it had arrested eight suspects, including four Beninese, for pipeline vandalism, vowing to intensify the fight against the crime in the state.

Lagos State Commandant, Mr. Cyprian Otoibhi, told newsmen in Lagos that the men of the marine anti-vandal unit of the NSCDC, Lagos Command, apprehended the suspects on Topo highseas in Badagry waterways.