

Midnight downpour kills 3, renders residents homeless in Ilorin

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—THREE persons lost their lives while hundreds of residents were rendered homeless and property worth millions of naira destroyed by a midnight downpour accompanied by heavy wind storms weekend in Ilorin, Kwara State capital.

Vanguard gathered that while one life was said to have been lost during the heavy rain, two persons whose corpses were yet to be recovered were reportedly washed away at Taiwo-Isale and Oko- Erin bridge in Ilorin metropolis.

A source at the State Fire Service, which pleaded anonymity confirmed that two persons were swept away by flood.

Mostly affected areas were Okekere, Oju Ekun, Okelele,

Alagbado, Ayegbami- Dada, Dada community, Harmony Estate area, Akerebiata, Omoda and Oloje among others.

It was gathered that roofs of many houses in all the affected areas were destroyed, while many victims of the destruction rendered homeless, especially in such areas as Gaa Akanbi, Murtala Mohammed way, Ibrahim Taiwo road and Agbabiaka.

Taofiq Akanbi, one of the victims in Omoda also told *Vanguard* in an interview that the damage done by the rainstorm was unprecedented and pleaded with the state government for assistance.

Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq of Kwara State, in a statement by his Chief Press

Secretary, Rafiu Ajakaye, appealed to Federal Government to urgently assist the state in its efforts to assist residents across the state affected by the rainstorm.

Meanwhile, the Ilorin Emirate Youth Development Association, IEYDA, has called on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Federal Government and Kwara State government to quickly come to the aid of the victims.

In a statement by the association's National President, Alhaji Abdullahi Salaudeen, and National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Mohammed Jagunma, the association said government's intervention became necessary, "especially during this period that coronavirus pandemic has paralyzed business activities in the country."