

# THE IMPERATIVE OF PARTNERSHIP IN CURBING FLOOD DISASTER IN NIGERIA

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# INTRODUCTION

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A large accumulation of water on land that is normally dry, reaching up to the ankle of human foot can be described as an objectionable overflow resulting from torrential rainfall, overflow of rivers or overflow from broken drainage channel, a storm surges or overflow from snow or ice melting, or from coastal surge or from water system is generally called a flood.

Better still we can say that floods are caused by large surges of water over a period of time that overwhelms existing natural or manmade drainage systems often times because the ground is already saturated with water and just as a full glass of water cannot take more water, a saturated ground can no longer absorb more water. When this happens other drainage channels (rivers, drain pipes, reservoirs, dams etc. fill up faster than they are able to drain out/off thus the excess water accumulates and becomes a flood.

- **A disaster is something that happens suddenly and causes much suffering and losses to many people; a calamitous occurrence or happening resulting into great damage or loss or destruction – such as fire outbreaks, earthquakes & tremors, plane crashes, and tsunamis.**
- **Of all these some school of thought claim that flood is the commonest in occurrence.**
- **The question is, are floods really disasters? Can they be classified as natural or man-made disasters? These are pertinent questions.**

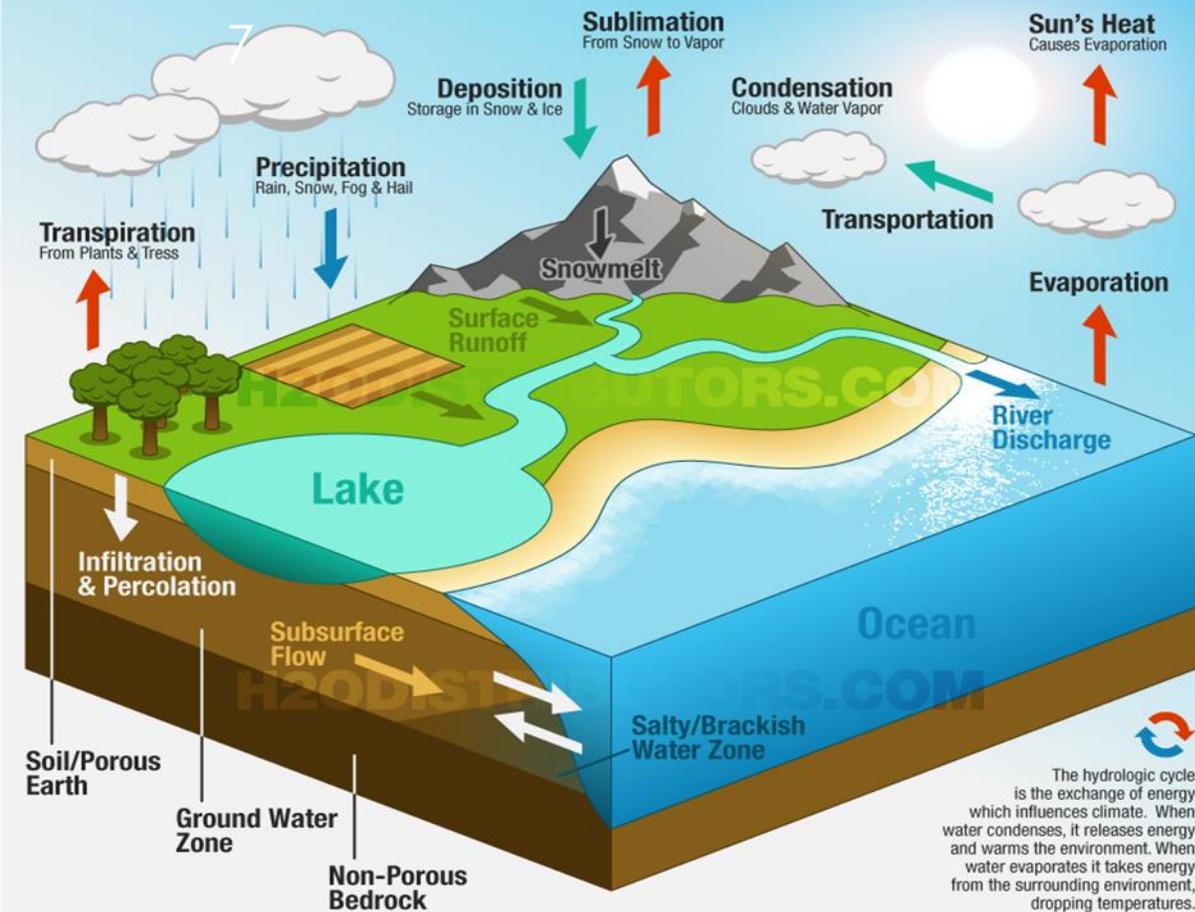
- ➔ **We all know that unlike thunder blasts, volcanoes eruptions, tornados, tsunamis, earthquake and tremors, Flood disasters are NOT natural but floods are natural. Flood Disasters are manmade as a result of man tampering with and upsetting Natures Structural designs and endowment.**
- ➔ **Nature already put a management system and control in place for water through the Hydrologic cycle and balance is thus maintained – no matter the intensity and duration of rainfall. For millions of years this equilibrium was maintained. There were natural flow channels (valleys etc.).**

# Hydrologic Cycle

The Hydrologic Cycle (also called the Water Cycle) is the continuous movement of water in the air, on the surface of and below the Earth.

## Human activities that alter the water cycle:

- Alteration of Atmosphere
- Construction of Dams
- Deforestation and Afforestation
- Water Abstraction from Rivers
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Urbanization



## Process Definitions:

### Condensation

The transformation of water vapor to liquid water droplets in the air, creating clouds and fog.

### Deposition

Also known as desublimation, is a thermodynamic process, a phase transition in which gas (vapor) transforms into solid (ice).

### Evaporation

The transformation of water from liquid to gas phases as it moves from the ground or bodies of water into the overlying atmosphere.

### Percolation

Water flows horizontally through the soil and rocks under the influence of gravity.

### Precipitation

Condensed water vapor that falls to the Earth's surface. Most precipitation occurs as rain, but also includes snow, hail, fog drip, graupel, and sleet.

### Sublimation

The state change directly from solid water (snow or ice) to water vapor.

### Transpiration

The release of water vapor from plants and soil into the air. Water vapor is a gas that cannot be seen.

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• Nature already designed the flow channels through which excess rain water is led to the larger bodies of water – lagoons, oceans, seas and lakes.

• Then man came along and instead of aligning with the already existing system and replicating it while awaiting himself of the water resource he interfere with the hydrologic system by:

- 1. Building on flood plains and wet lands**
- 2. Concreting soil surfaces and obstructing percolation and permeability of rainwater**
- 3. Not proactively providing additional flow drains to align with the existing natural flow channels**
- 4. Constructing houses with impervious materials which disturb water flow**
- 5. Dumping waste on flow channels and blocking drain pathways**



- Then Flood emerged as water struggled to find its way out and in its force caused havoc destructions, swept people off their feet and houses away – thus the emergence of FLOOD DISASATER.

- ➔ **Thus floods do not start off as disasters. There was overflowing of the banks of the river, lakes, the beaches and the high tides but all receded to their space and there were no disasters but natural occurrences.**
- ➔ **Even though floods had been occurring since the time of Noah there were no reported cases of destruction/damages caused by floods.**

# HISTORY OF FLOOD IN NIGERIA

- **The very first reported case of a destructive flood in Nigeria was that of Ogunpa River in Ibadan in 1948 (Etuonovbe, 2011). Since then there had been several reported cases mainly in the same Ogunpa in 1963, 1978, 1980, 1987, 1990 , 2011 and 2012 the country, Nigeria witnessed the worst ever deluge when 33 out of the 36 states of the Federation were affected by flood in various degrees and about – 7 million people were reported to have been directly affected with 363 deaths died and the country lost an estimated 2.7 Trillion Naira (NEMA, 2013).**

- This was in spite of a series of predictions & warnings from NIMET in February of same year (2012) as a result of observed changes in Climate conditions and warning from the Cameroonian Government that they intended to release excess water from the Lagdo Dam to prevent the collapse of the Dam.
- In response to the increasing menace of flooding in Nigeria successive Governments set up adhoc agencies to distribute relief materials to victims of floods and agencies like the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) at National, State & Local Governments levels (NEMA, SEMA, LEMA) were established in a bid to manage the negative impacts of floods.

➤ But as is now well known, nothing was achieved in curbing or preventing the menace. Indeed relief materials were successfully given out, the dead were buried, victims rehabilitated. But in spite of these the devastation has continued.

➤ To give administrative support to NEMA, Government came up with what became the **National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF)** which was a blueprint for Disaster Management in the country that made provision for flood disaster control and prevention.

- From the operations of NEMA since it was set up it is obvious that the implementing bodies have been struggling to cope with emergency relief and have not had ample time to examine the **management aspect that includes prevention, control, curbing limiting, checking and restraining** the tantacular spread of flooding.

# FLOOD AS A DISASTER

- When planes crash serious steps are taken to prevent a repeat, when fires break out efforts are made to curb their reoccurrence but when floods occur the effort is directed mainly to attending to the impacts as emergency relief and thereafter life goes on as usual and we accept them as if they are natural forgetting that we can remove their causes which we ourselves put there.
- It is confirmed that citizen involvement in flood management is central to the attainment of the overall goals in flood disaster management policies and its relevance cuts across various elements and stages (pre- flood disaster reduction and post disaster recovery) involved in disaster management (Koh & Cacigan, 2008)

**Pre – flood disaster Reduction involves** activities that are to do with the impacts and not with the prevention of flooding and with possible reduction in the impact of flooding disaster on the community or Nation. Which should comprise:

- **Prevention**
- **Mitigation**
- **Preparedness and**
- **Early warning (Ojo, 2004)**

**Post - Flood Disaster Recovery focuses** on activities meant to save lives and reposition the impacted community for return to normal life. These post disaster recovery activities comprise:

- Disaster impact
- Response (Rescue and Relief)
- Recovery & Development - Rehabilitation

The focus of this discourse is majorly on the Pre-flood disaster Reduction or Prevention – collectively curbing it – controlling it or what is generally called **Flood Disaster Exposure Reduction** through:

- 1. Creating more space for the excess water that will cause flooding**
- 2. Keeping floods completely away from urban areas by reducing the flood vulnerability e.g. through early warning:**
  - Eliminating developments and occupation in flood plains**
  - Providing barriers such as dykes levees, dams etc.**
  - Maintaining drain channels to prevent collapse**
  - Cleaning natural drain channels**
  - Keeping refuse out of drainage channels and desilting drains before the rains, during the rains and soon after the rains**

# ➔ Establishing sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

➔ Protecting wetlands

➔ Enforcing Town Planning laws

➔ Planting trees and lawns

➔ Partnering/collaborating with all stakeholders and all MDAs

➔ Sensitizing and enlightening citizenry

➔ Keeping a check on Green House Gases

- **For post flood disaster management which is aimed at rescue and post flooding operations which is aptly described as medicine after death – which has been the approach of the agencies of Government vested with the responsibilities as exemplified by the following few examples from NEMA events in the S.W, N.W, and S.E in 2013 taken from NEMA Newsletter Vol.5 No. 19 July 2013 pages 6 & 7.**

## NEMA seeks collaboration to curb flood disaster

**T**he National Emergency Management Agency has urged Nigerians to complement government's efforts in mitigating the impact of flooding.

NEMA Coordinator, South-West, Iyiola Akande, made the call during the South-West Zonal Awareness Flood Campaign on early warning and early action for stakeholders in the zone held in Ibadan.

The NEMA official, who recalled that flooding ravaged 23 states of the federation in 2012, said, "The tragedy cost the country an economic loss valued at about N2.6trn".

Akande, who said the workshop was necessitated by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency's prediction of heavy rainfall in the year, added that no fewer than seven million people were affected, with 363 deaths recorded, last year.

He said, "The prediction painted a clear picture of what the nation should expect this year when compared with the devastating effect of the 2012 flooding that ravaged about 23 states of the federation."

## Emergency, Disaster Management Volunteers trained

**T**he National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), North West Zone, has so far trained 3,200 volunteers on response to emergency situations and disaster management in their communities in 16 local government areas.

Zonal Coordinator, Musa Illah disclosed this at a one-day programme in Bimin Kebbi

to train and inaugurate volunteers. He said the volunteers would serve as first responders in situations of emergencies and disasters in their



NW Zonal Coordinator Musa Illah with Volunteers in a group photography

The Commissioner for Environment and Habitat in Oyo State, Lowo Obisesan, said the efforts of stakeholders would go a long way in controlling flooding.

Obisesan, who was represented on the occasion by the Permanent Secretary, Modupe Omonigbehin, said, "If we are all ready to give what it takes, if rivers and streams are allowed to go through their channels without obstruction, flooding will be prevented."

He said unlike earthquake, hurricane or volcanic and other natural disasters, flooding could be predicted in scope, time and impact and therefore, could be prepared for.

The Supervisor for Environment, Oshodi/Solo Local Government, Lagos State, Felix Ajayi, said, "The lesson from this seminar is to get us prepared to avoid impending losses. The citizens should stop erecting houses on the flood plains and desist from dumping wastes arbitrarily."

The Assistant Coordinator, NEMA South-West, Segun Babatunde, said, "With the level of preparedness, we are hopeful that the impact of flooding will be reduced this year."

respective communities.

He noted that good Samaritans often stretched out their helping hands to rescue victims of emergencies and disaster, but lacked the competence and skill to do so.

This, according to him, has prompted NEMA to embark on the training of volunteers on the basics of search and rescue efforts in the zone. He called on the state governments to enhance the capacity of the

volunteers at the grassroots level by making annual budgetary provisions for each local government to train 1000 volunteers.

## Imo Students trained on Disaster Management

**A**s part of measures to ensure adequate mitigation and risk reduction during disasters, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), South east zone in collaboration with the Imo State Emergency Management Agency has organized a one day workshop for students in secondary schools to help them gain knowledge on emergencies, risk reduction and mitigation.

The workshop with the theme "Role of children in emergencies, risk reduction and mitigation in secondary schools in Imo state", was held at Government Secondary school in Owerri, the Imo state capital.

The South East Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Bandele Onimode said the workshop was aimed at ensuring that adequate measures and sensitization are put in

place to ensure that there is reduction in disaster this year especially after receiving another Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) prediction on heavy rainfall that might occur.

Dr. Onimode added that it was also an avenue to educate the students who are mainly disaster risk club members on how to manage emergencies, risk reduction and mitigation in their immediate environment.

He added that it is the mandate of the NEMA to go to nooks and crannies of the country to sensitize and educate people on risk reduction and disaster management.

Students who participated in the workshop expressed delight over what they have learnt, saying it is an eye opener for them in terms of risk reduction and mitigation of disaster.

## NEMA ready for flood in South-East

**T**he National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) assured residents of the South East zone of the agency's preparedness to respond to any flood emergency in the zone.

The South East Zonal Co-ordinator, Dr Onimode Bandele, told newsmen at Enugu that the agency had been carrying out awareness campaigns in riverine and low land communities in the zone in the past three months.

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) had predicted that two states in the zone Anambra and Imo were likely to experience flooding in 2013 due to increased volume of water in rivers and their tributaries occasioned by ocean surges and global warming.

Bandele said that the agency had already stockpiled relief materials and other necessities to meet the challenge of the NIMET prediction. "We have done our own homework; and we have gotten ourselves ready, stockpiling relief materials and whatever, but the states should take pro-active measures too before the rains get to its peak.

"Yes, the message for both individual and corporate citizens around floodable area is that they should please listen to weather forecast, jingles or announcements that may come on radio or TV from time to time. "And take pro-active measures to evacuate from floodplains when the time comes," he

urged.

The coordinator said that NEMA had been working in close collaboration with the various State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) and in the process had transferred a lot of expertise and best practices to them through regular interactions and workshops to build-up the capacity of the state agencies.

Bandele said that the zonal office of the agency had received a feedback from the Anambra State Emergency Management Agency on the gradual increase in the volume of water in the River Niger.

He, however, urged the state emergency management agencies to take pro-active steps towards mitigating the effects of the flooding and also invite NEMA should the situation go beyond their capacity to respond effectively.

He said: "It is not us now; it is the state; that is how these things are. Those people belong to a particular state. NEMA is supposed to come in when they are overwhelmed. "So, what we have done is to let the state identify higher grounds where camps and temporary shelters can be built if there is going to be evacuation."

It would be recalled that NEMA provided medication, clothing, blankets, tents, cooking utensils and food for more than 100,000 families in riverine communities and low land areas of Anambra and Imo, following the 2012 flood that devastated the area.

- **These actions are post – flood disaster activities, which element in disaster impact referring precisely to the point where the emergency personnel and volunteers intervene with the intension of saving lives and properties (Carter 1991).**

- The response element is therefore the combination of activities embarked upon immediately prior, during or immediately following the disaster impact which activities would include **search and rescue** for survivors, dead bodies, and properties, setting up of relief camps, provision of relief materials, integrate displaced persons, repositioning the victims and communities on the path of recovery and functionality.

- It can safely be re-echoed that the level of success of any post disaster activities will be dependent upon the degree of citizen participation and inter/intra Governmental collaboration/partnership.
- However, as crucial as those posts – flood disaster activities are this discourse will not want direct attention to them but will rather focus attention on **CURBING Flood Disasters or Reducing its Exposure to Flood**

- For this reason however we shall take a brief look at NEMA and its responsibilities and activities.
- Disaster Management was reported to have started in Nigeria in 1906 with the establishment of the Fire Brigade now the **Federal Fire Service** charged with the responsibility for fire-fighting and provision of humanitarian services during emergencies in addition to saving lives and property.

- As a result of the devastating drought disaster of 1972/1973 in Northern Nigeria, the Emergency Relief Agency (NERA) was established by Decree 48 of 1976, charged **with the responsibility of collecting and distributing relief materials to disaster victims.**
- However the need for a more holistic approach to disaster management promoted Government in 1999 to establish the **National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) through Act 12 of 1999 as amended by Act 50 of 1999 and charged with the following specific functions:**

- **Disaster preparedness and mitigation activities**
- **Notify, activate, mobilize and deploy staff as well as set up all necessary facilities for response**
- **Evaluation and assessment of disaster damages**
- **Management of Funds for disaster**
- **Inform and enlighten the public**
- **Formulation of disaster management policies and guidelines in the country**
- **Distribution of relief materials to disaster victims by liaising with state emergency management committees, non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) Regional and International bodies**

**My curiosity was greatly aroused by these responsibilities which spurred me on to want to know what NEMA's administrative/operational framework was like, discovered that NEMA's organisational structure consisted of five (5) main Departments and three (3) units viz:**

- 1. Search and Rescue Department**
- 2. Relief and Rehabilitation Department**
- 3. Training Department**
- 4. Finance Department**
- 5. Administration Department**
  - Public Relations unit**
  - Legal unit**
  - Audit unit**

**My search revealed that there is no Department or unit for Prevention/Curbing.**

**NEMA'S records clearly and unequivocally showed that she collaborates and partners with the following bodies:-**

- **Federal MDAs**
- **State Governments**
- **Local Governments**
- **Voluntary organisations**
- **International agencies**
- **57 Disaster Response units scattered all over the country.**

- **In 2006 Zonal offices of NEMA were opened in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria to take disaster management to community level and to further strengthen community involvement and Local Government Emergency Management committees were set to facilitate quick response to calls from communities as it enhanced proximity to the communities.**

- **A synergy was thus established between the 3 tiers of Federal, State and Local centres on the principle of shared responsibility and the leverage to ensure proper integration and collaboration among stakeholders and reduce the severity of the impact of disasters.**

- Going forward Grassroots Emergency Volunteer Corps was created and named **DISASTER FRONTS** to give communities the capacity to respond to threats themselves since the communities are at the forefront of the disasters.
- To collaborate and co-ordinate the activities of NEMA at its different zones **“NDMF”** (National Disaster Management Framework) was established in 2010 to serve as the Regulatory Guideline for effective and efficient disaster management in Nigeria.

**NDMF was so deftly articulated & written so that the collaborating factions – Government officials, civil society organizations, the private sector through MAN, NACCIMA etc, emergency management practitioners, community leaders, market organization, voluntary organization and the youth could understand the concept and operating guidelines of disaster management in Nigeria. Therefore the focus of NDMF was on the following:**

- **Institutional capacity**
- **Co-ordination**
- **Disaster Risk Assessment**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Disaster Prevention Preparedness and Mitigation**

- ➔ Preparedness and Mitigation
- ➔ Disaster Recovery
- ➔ Facilitators and Enablers

I have gone into this much details on NEMA and NDMF in order to draw attention to the weakness in that body and system.

This weakness centres around the fact that **their responsibilities are mainly on the alleviation of the impacts of disasters and not on the root causes of disasters** in this case Floods and how to eliminate them but rather how to alleviate suffering.

- There is so much emphases on the actual happening and post-happening but absolutely **nothing on the ante-** Although the 8 focal areas of NDMF do have one on **Disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation** even then the emphasis is preparedness whereas with flood the emphasis ought to be on eliminating it **completely** or as **ALAR**

- **The question therefore is – is it possible to eliminate or Curb Flood Disasters in this country? To answer this we need to go through the types of Floods –**
- **Through the water cycle (Hydrologic cycle Nature is equipped to control the amount of water around – on the surface of the earth.**

- **And for millions of years it did this effectively until man came along with his wanton disregard to the rule of Natural Laws – that brought the deluge and has since wrought havoc through torrential rains as a result of rise in temperature and global warming – man’s disregard to Green House Gases, poor urban planning (building on flood plains and wetlands), poor sanitation, sand prospecting at wrong places (beaches & flood plains) poor waste management, felling of trees and poor agricultural practices, wrong building practices that increase the imperviousness of soil covers, failure to adjust to celestial dictates – human system tidal movements and failure to learn how-to co-operate and adjust to the environment. Thus creating more spaces for excess water from increased rainfall – drainage channels.**

# FLOOD AS A DISASTER

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# FLOOD AS A DISASTER

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Farmland and animals are submerged, Washing away of top soils



# THE IMPERATIVE OF PARTNERSHIP

- Since the divergence of Nature's systematic arrangement of controlling her different aspects was caused by us all in the various ways listed, it follows therefore that the task of returning Nature to near her original state or repairing the destruction that mankind wrought remains that of MAN i.e. **everyone – you, I, Government, the citizenry, etc.**

- **It is imperative that this must be done consciously by all through a structured partnership since flooding disasters are none limiting thus cutting across communities, local Governments, interstate, across countries e.g. Dam in the Cameroun causing severe flooding in Nigeria; Dam in Ogun State causing severe flooding in Lagos State....**

- **The importance of partnership cannot therefore be overemphasized.**
- **To hit this home, I want to take events in Lagos State as case studies.**
- **Lagos State experience three (3) major types of flood disasters. Through urbanization the hydrologic cycle was interfered with resulting in urban flooding which Lagos is now known for.**

- **Urbanisation led to the erection of structures on flood plains, on wetlands, building without regard to drainage channels, making it impossible for rainwater to find its way to the Lagoons and out into the ocean allowing the water to accumulate on ground surfaces as floods.**

# CASE STUDIES OF FLOOD

## CASE STUDY 1: RIVER GUINNESS FLOODING AT IKEJA LGA.

- One such case was what used to be known as “**River Guinness**” in Ikeja Local Government Area of Lagos State within the WEMABOD Estate.
- In the late seventies and early eighties the whole area was often overwhelmed by flood resulting from the blockage of the WEMABOD Industrial Estate’s sewage system which channelled industrial effluents from individual industry in the Estate to a Treatment Plant located at Akanni Doherty close.

## CASE STUDIES OF FLOOD

- All the units in the area were unaccessible. The State Government tried all they could to initiate a collector drainage channel but due to the huge financial implication was to have it delayed.

# **CASE STUDY 1: RIVER GUINNESS FLOODING AT IKEJA LGA. *CONT.***

**All the units in the area were unaccessible. The State Government tried all they could to initiate a collector drainage channel but due to the huge financial implication was to have it delayed.**

## **CASE STUDY 1: RIVER GUINNESS FLOODING AT IKEJA LGA. CONT.**

- However but the State Ministry of The Environment then initiated a partnership with Ikeja Branch of MAN with Guinness leading the team, and involving other stakeholders including the WEMABOD Estate, the media, Lagos State Ministry of Works, and within a comparatively short time the funding was raised and the contract awarded to open up the blocked drainage system and construct the collector channel 6A that flushed out the water.
- It was a classic partnership that curbed very serious flooding of often 2-4ft high/deep flood water that often destroyed many residential and industrial units and submerged vehicles of all sizes.

# CASE STUDIES OF FLOOD

## CASE STUDY 2: OGUN RIVER FLOODING

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- **Often times in recent times due to heavy rainfall occasioned by effects of climate change, the Ogun Osun River Basin Authority releases excess water from the Dam when they do this without collaborating with the Lagos Ministry of The Environment and Water Resources the effect was usually devastating with loss of farmlands, crops, biodiversity, human lives, properties etc.**

- However in recent times there has been collaboration as in 2018, 2019, 2020 such that Lagos State adequately prepared her citizenry and no record of devastation was recorded because working together as partners with NiMET, **the times of full moon** when the tides were high and tidal surges gained access to the lower reaches of Ogun River, were avoided and the release of excess water from the Dam did not herald flooding thus curbing the disaster that would have occurred.

- **Demonstrating the beauty of partnership in curbing flood disaster in the Ogun/Lagos Region.**
- **“The long-established synergy and partnership between Lagos and Ogun-Osun River Basin Authority have moderated mutual control and monitoring of the steady and systematic release of water from Oyan and Ikere Gorge Dams by the Authority.**

# CASE STUDIES OF FLOOD

## CASE STUDY 3: Nigeria – Cameroun Partnership for Flood Control

- Another good example of collaboration is the case of Nigeria – Cameroun partnership for Flood Control. Release of excess water from the Ladgo Dam in Cameroun was causing serious floods that affected some Northern Nigerian states – Borno, Taraba, Adamawa, Benue, Kogi, Cross River states leading to losses of great magnitude.
- This flood disaster could have been avoided, if a solution drawn up over 30 years ago had been followed. In fact, When Lagdo Dam **was built in 1980 on the Adamawa Plateau in the Northern Province of Cameroon along the course of the Benue River, water from it usually flooded many communities in Borno, Adamawa and Taraba.**

- This prompted an agreement by Nigeria and Cameroun that the former would build similar dams along the river to **suck whatever excess water was being released from Lagdo.** Nigeria, in **1981**, actually designed a shock-absorber which it called **Dasin Hausa Dam** located in **Dasin Village of Fufore Local Government Area of Adamawa State.**
- Unfortunately, Nigeria ignored its own plan leading to disasters that these states had been suffering.

# CASE STUDIES OF FLOOD

## **CASE STUDY 4: Flooding of Bar Beach and Ahmadu Bello way in VI, Lagos**

- **The flooding of the Bar Beach and Ahmadu Bello Way in VI, Lagos for the period 1983 – 1995 exemplified coastal flooding. Unmolested in the years before, the beach was calm and entertaining but once the man interfered by constructing a mole to create calm water for barges at the Apapa end then the water revolted and surges came and destroyed properties worth billions of Naira.**

- **The Lagos State Government spent tonnes of Naira trying to curtail the devastation of the beach surges for many years with no success until the partnership with the Federal Government through Federal Ministry of Works, NPA and a donor Bank, was forged could the ocean the ocean flood disaster at the Bar Beach be finally curbed with the construction of the Great of Wall of Lagos.**



# Flooding of Bar Beach and Ahmadu Bello way in VI, Lagos

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

- **Advocacy and Massive sensitization**
- **Remediation through Strategic Coastal Defence Initiative (SCDI)**
- **Massive Intensive Monitoring**
- **No settlement along coastlines**
- **Legislation/proper reasonable penalty**
- **Embark on sustainable urban Drainage System (SuDS)**
- **Discourage wrong farming practices**
- **Constantly monitor the flooding occurrence**

- Improve Drainage System and clear them of weeds and blockages three (3) times a year
- Set up effective warning systems for water release and dam bursts
- NEMA as it currently constituted can not adequately tackle Flood Control and elimination thus curbing the disaster arising therefrom.
- It is strongly recommended here that a separate body to be known as **National Flood Disaster Prevention Agency on Commission** (NFDPA or NFDPC) at least it can be a department under NESREA be established.

# CONCLUSION

- Since the disasters associated with Floods are man-made i.e. they are caused by everyone by all of us, the solution also will lie in everyone coming to undo what we all contributed.
- This can be done only through a collective effort which lies in partnership and collaboration. High on the scale is identifying who must be involved y definition and extension the who is the CITIZENRY , the community Leaders, the organized private sector, professional bodies, NGOs, Civil societies, the media, the 3- tiers of Government the MDAs (NESREA, NiMET, NPA, NEMA) the Police, Army; Moon & Star Watchers (Astronomers) and Donor agencies for funding.

- **The Environment is everyone's common wealth and common inheritance we must return it to its Glory by unblocking the drains, remove illegal structures from flood planes, beaches flow drains, stop sand prospecting and sand mining, building in unapproved areas and preserve the wet lands.**

**THANK  
YOU**