

Five die, eight hospitalised over suspected poisoned meat in Taraba

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By Justin Tyopuusu

At least five people have died and eight others hospitalised after allegedly consuming suspected poisoned meat in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The Taraba State Police Command confirmed the incident on Wednesday in Jalingo, the state capital.

According to a statement by the Police Public Relations Officer, Victor Mshelizah, the victims, drawn from three different families, reportedly ate the meat on Tuesday during a Ramadan lecture.

“Five of the victims died shortly after consuming the meat, while eight others who fell ill are currently receiving treatment at various hospitals within the area,” the statement disclosed.

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Preliminary investigations indicate that the meat may have been contaminated with a toxic substance, possibly intended for rodent control, which the victims unknowingly consumed.

“The eight affected individuals are receiving treatment at various hospitals, while the remains of the deceased have been evacuated for necessary procedures,” Mshelizah added.

The state police command further stated that it had launched a comprehensive investigation to determine the exact cause of the incident and the circumstances surrounding the tragedy.

Mshelizah also urged the public to remain vigilant, reporting any suspicious food items, sudden illnesses, or related incidents to security agencies to prevent further loss of life.

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