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General

Snakes invade Plateau communities, bite 50 farmers

By Hir Joseph, Jos | Publish Date: Oct 14 2015 9:49PM | Updated Date: Oct 15 2015 2:16AM

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A snake charmer gives water to a snake in Utako, Abuja yesterday.

In the past two weeks, more than 50 farmers in communities in Kanke and Kanam Local Government Areas of Plateau State, have been bitten by snakes, lawmaker representing the area said.

Timothy Golu, representing Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam in the House of

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Representatives, told newsmen after his visit to the communities that out of the over 50 persons bitten, no fewer than 10 persons have died while others are in critical condition in various hospitals and traditional healing centres.

He said 13 victims are currently receiving treatment at the University of Jos Teaching Hospital (JUTH) Comprehensive Health Centre at Zamko, in Langtang, 20 in traditional healers' homes, seven in herbalists' centres, while some visit the centres for daily treatment owing to lack of bed space.

"Some have been treated and discharged, but a woman from my village, who was treated and discharged, still has pus gushing from the cut and we have advised her to return to the hospital", she said.

The lawmaker described the situation as scary and pathetic, adding that snakes are sited at all corners of homes, sometimes in pairs. He said the snakes were washed into the communities by flood.

"As the flood pushed them from the over flown tributaries of Rivers Benue and Niger, some snakes climbed trees, others entered holes while some just held unto any available straw and all of them later moved into houses and farms," he said.



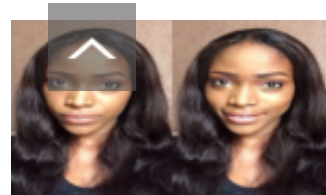
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