

11 family members die after taking concoction in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Eleven members of a family in Gwanara community of Baruteen Local Government Area of Kwara State have lost their lives after consuming a local herbal mixture.

The tragic incident which happened on Friday had left the Biogberu community said to be occupied by local Fulani indigenes in shock and disbelief.

Baruteen is one of the farthest local government areas in Kwara North from Ilorin metropolis.

Some of the locals who spoke on the issue on phone said the village, where the incident occurred, is several hours' trek from the council's capital.

Although the police said ten people lost their lives during the incident, several local sources who spoke with Daily Trust on phone said there were eleven casualties, all members of the same family.

According to one of the sources, the incident happened when a local woman approached a herbalist to

seek spiritual cure for an ailment on her leg and also fortification against witches, gunshots and other attacks.

"You know our people with this belief that witches and wizard are troubling them. 12 of them were supposed to eat from the concoction from the same family but one of them declined. He is the only one that survived," the source added.

When contacted, the Transition Implementation Committee (TIC) Chairman of Baruteen Local Government Area, Abdurashheed Ibrahim, told Daily Trust that he had since dispatched a team to the place on Tuesday expecting a feedback from them.

A statement by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the state command, Ajayi Okasanmi (SP), disclosed that: "On 22/6/2021, at about 0700hrs, one Ibrahim Bonnie (22) of Fulani camp Biogberu, via Gwanara, reported at the police station that on 18/6/2021, one Okosi Musa (35) and one Worugura Junlin, an adult came to his mother by name Pennia Bonni (40) of same Fulani camp."

According to him, Okosi Musa and Worugura Junlin gave his mother, who was having a foot infection, a local herbal mixture purported to be the cure for her ailment.

Ajayi added: "She was told to ensure that all her family members take out of the mixture to prevent the spread of the disease to other members of the family.

"After taking the local herbal mixture, the family members started dying and at the last count, 10 members, including the mother with the infected leg.

"The Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Lawal Bagega, has ordered a discreet investigation into the incident, the two suspects are already helping the police in their investigation.

"The Commissioner of Police advises sick members of the public to seek a medical solution in recognised medical homes spread across the length and breadth of the state to avoid the ugly incident of this nature."