

Killer Kerosene Spreads To Makurdi ...Kills Girl, Injures Three

FROM SIMEON
NWAKAUDU
(MAKURDI)

THE killer kerosene, which has visited many families in parts of the South South with death and destruction in recent time, has found its way into Makurdi, the Benue State capital, causing the death of a teenage girl simply identified as Ifeoma in the Wurukum suburb of the city.

Also, a family of three was severely burnt on Tuesday in a kerosene explosion at the residence at their High Level Area in the town.

The Guardian gathered from residents of Konshisha Street in Wurukum that the late Ifeoma had gone to

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Adultrated Kerosene Kills One In Makurdi

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buy the kerosene from a woman selling the product in the neighbourhood, after which she poured the substance into the family stove to prepare the evening meal last Tuesday.

Tragedy struck as she attempted to light the stove, as before she knew what was happening, fire

had engulfed her.

Neighbours who rushed to the scene to assist in putting out the fire, were appalled by the difficulty they encountered, as the fire flared each time they tried to put it out.

When they eventually succeeded in putting out the fire, it was almost too late; the girl had become unconscious due to the severity of the burns. She

died yesterday morning of severe burns. Her death threw the entire neighbourhood into mourning, as residents trooped to the late Ifeoma's home to sympathise with her grief-stricken parents.

In the last few weeks, residents of Makurdi had been experiencing partial scarcity of the product, with only few filling sta-

tions selling it. This situation forced residents to resort to kerosene hawkers in their respective neighbourhoods.

When *The Guardian* visited the office of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) in the state capital, security personnel at the gate claimed that officials of the department were in a meeting.