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Five feared killed in Yobe mine disaster

From Njadvava Musa, Damaturu

TRAGEDY struck at the weekend in Fika Council Area of Yobe State last Thursday when five female teenagers on vacation were killed on a hilltop while mining for gypsum.

The victims were aged between seven and 16.

According to an eyewitness, Mallam Umar Mohammed Geidam, the girls were on vacation and decided to assist their parents by mining gypsum before the resumption of school.

The Fika Council Chairman, Babayo Waziri, however, attributed the trapping and killing of the girls to an act of God, stating that all of them were in primary and secondary schools before the tragedy.

He said that one of the girls is the daughter of the District Head of Fika, Maina Hassan, warning that parents should not allow their children and wards to be engaged in the mining of gypsum.

Geidam told The Guardian yesterday in Damaturu that "the tragedy is a reflection of the level of poverty in communities in the state", stating that the parents of the girls should not have engaged them in the mining of gypsum or any hazardous job that could cause ill-health and deaths.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the teenagers have been buried according to Islamic rites in Fika after the council chairman and the district head condoled with parents of the deceased.

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