

House of Reps seeks review of mining consent process as collapsed site kills 13 in Plateau

From Ernest Nzor, Abuja

THE House of Representatives Committee on Solid Minerals, yesterday, called for an urgent review of the mining consent process, citing a surge in complaints about agreement issues within the licensing procedures.

It emphasised that poorly managed consent agreements would create conflicts that could escalate and threaten local stability.

The committee, which was led by its Chairman, Jonathan Gaza, disclosed this in Abuja, during an oversight visit to the Nigerian Mining Cadastre Office (MCO) headquarters, where he raised concerns about potential risks to staff welfare and insufficient oversight.

The lawmakers stressed that improving working conditions and oversight measures within the MCO could reduce the lapses.

The committee proposed that each state should have designated officers to verify consent agreements and collaborate with local land departments to minimise overlap and potential conflicts.

He said: "Issue of consent in your licensing process, as a committee, we have been bombarded with complaints with regards to the issue of consent as a committee, and I want to create your indulgence that you look within and see how you can review the aspect that has to do with consent.