

# Pipeline Vandals Roasted In Adamawa

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At least 18 persons were burnt to death in a pipeline inferno that broke out in Kaulami and Wapa villages in Mayo-Belwa Local Government Area of Adamawa State at the weekend.

Scores of others whose number could not be ascertained at the time of filing this report were said to have suffered various degrees of injuries and are now receiving medical attentions.

It was gathered that trouble started when the villagers vandalised the petroleum pipeline and as they were scooping fuel with all manner of containers including

metal basins.

It was also learnt that they (the pipeline vandals) have been carrying out this illegal activities in the area after being chased from other sites in Demsa Local Government by the security agents.

At the time of filing this report, over 10 charred bodies of the vandals were recovered and buried near the site of the incident among whom made up of a man, his two wives and two children while other corpses were burnt beyond recognition.

The village head of the two communities, who was simply identified as Jauro, said the illegal scooping of petroleum products at the site of the incident has been on for

over three months.

He also disclosed to the state Deputy Governor, Alhaji Bello Tukur, who was at the scene of the disaster to have on the spot assessment of the incident had reported the activities of the vandals to the local government council chairman more than five times.

Conducting the deputy governor round the site, the chairman of the local government, Mr. Stephen Albert stated that he equally reported to law enforcement agents on receiving complaints of the illegal scooper from Jauro.

The council chairman told the deputy governor that the local vigilante group sent to the area could not have access to the site as the il-

legal scooper mounted a road block round the sites.

The Deputy Governor, described the incident as unfortunate but faulted security operatives for not taking prompt action despite repeated reports on the illegal activities.

He directed the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to station its personnel in the area to curb rampant cases of NNPC pipeline vandals in the area.

Tukur also appealed to traditional rulers and opinion leaders in the state to sensitise their subjects on the consequences of scooping petroleum products, saying apart from leading to premature death, it is an economic sabotage to the nation.