

Two Die As NAFEST Ends In Benue

By Terna Doki

CORRESPONDENT, Makurdi

National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) hosted by Benue State ended on a sad note as two persons reportedly died of snake bite.

The news of their death broke as organisers admitted lapses in the hosting of the festival.

The 21st edition of the national cultural fiesta began on September 3 and ended on Monday.

However, lapses marred the glamour and essence of the festival, as government officials mandated to organise a befitting national assignment reportedly used it as an avenue to amass wealth.

In his speech during the closing ceremony on Sunday, Governor Gabriel Suswam urged youths to embrace the virtues of hard work, honesty and fraternity.

He also apologised over lapses on the part of the organisers and the attendant inconveniences.

At a post-NAFEST press briefing in Makurdi on Monday, Information and Culture Commissioner and Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC), Ntol Unongo, also appealed for understanding where expectations were not met. "To err is human, to forgive is divine," she said.