

How three persons died in a well at Bauchi

By Patience Ogbodo
Correspondent, Bauchi

RESIDENTS of Jahum quarters, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis, were recently thrown into sorrow and pain following the unfortunate incident that occurred in the area when three people lost their lives inside a well.

For Mallam Bala Mohammed Dierba who the ugly incident happened in his compound, he would have dropped the idea of cleaning his well, if he had known the cleaning would turn out to be a tragic incident.

Dierba who owns a bungalow in Jahum quarters decided that it was time for him to clean up the well that has been in existence for thirty years. Even though the well was not very deep, during the dry season, it usually retains water and people from the neighbourhood come in to fetch water for their daily use.

It was gathered that the unfortunate incident that led to the death of three young men, happened when the owner of the house, Dierba, gave the contract of cleaning the well to one Mallam Mohammed Gudum, who in turn gave his son, Salisu Mohammed, the contract of cleaning up the well. After

finishing the usual plastering of the walls of the well to avoid cracking, Salisu then brought in a pumping machine to pump water out of the well. Instead of putting the machine outside the well, he took it inside the well, because the pipe connected to the machine was short.

It was further learnt that as soon as Salisu switched on the machine inside the well, he did not think of the fumes that would emit from the machine. In the process of removing the water, which he had almost finished, Salisu died inside the well, as a result the fumes coming out of the machine.

According to the ward head, Mallam Shuaibu Barde, one of Salisu's colleagues, Yahaya Mohammed, who was assisting him with the job, decided to enter the well to see what was happening, but got trapped in the process and also lost consciousness because of the fume. One Abdullahi Dajin, a 45 year-old man and another man, Adamu volunteered to go into the well to pull out the victims, with the aid of a rope.

But unfortunately, the two men that volunteered to go into the well to bring out the

victims also made a mistake by remaining inside the well, while they tried to bring out the victims. After successfully bringing them out of the well, they too, could not come out of the well, because they were also affected by the fumes.

At this time, the attention of the people outside the well was on the dead men that were brought out, forgetting about the two people who went in to bring them out the victims. Addullahi tried to come out of the well, but when he almost reached the top of the well, he slipped and fell back into the well, landing on top of Adamu, who died instantly.

Finally when they were brought out, it was discovered that one more person had died; Abdullahi Danji, was the only survivor of the incident.

When Mallam Bala Mohammed, who the ugly incident occurred in his house was contacted, he lamented that he has not been himself and that he is now scared of the well and the entire house.

He stated that after the incident, the SSS came and investigated the matter and concluded that it was as a result of the machine that was used inside the well.



•Salisu and Yahaya