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THE DISCUSSION



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Two women, four kids electrocuted in Lagos

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By Temidayo Akinsuyi, Ekene



Okoro (Lagos) and Dele Moses (Ilorin)

Six people were in the early hours of Thursday electrocuted following a heavy downpour in the Oworonsoki area of Lagos.

The victims included a woman with her three children and another pregnant woman with her child.

Not only this, another drama played out at the scene of the disaster, as the husband of the woman with her three children reportedly took poison and had to be rushed to Afolabi Hospital, a private medical facility in the area.

The tragedy which occurred on Onabanjo Street, Oworonsoki, at about 2.00 a.m. was caused by a fallen high-tension cable.

It was gathered that the high-tension cable cut into two and fell down as a result of the heavy rain.

General Secretary, Council of Oworonshoki Youth Forum, Kabiawu Babajide, said when the cable cut, it fell across a drainage channel and caught fire after coming in contact with wood, adding that two vehicles parked beside the wood were burnt by the fire.

The incident occurred in front of houses on Nos. 6 to 10 on the street.

While the fire was raging, residents raised the alarm for others to escape from the scene.

The electrocuted victims had run out of their houses in a bid to escape but instead stepped on the naked cable.

Others who were injured were rushed to the hospital.

According to Babajide, “people ran away from their houses in different directions and stepped on the high tension cable and they were immediately electrocuted. It was about 30 minutes later that electricity supply was cut off after the tragedy had occurred”.

He said among the six people who died were a woman with her three children and another pregnant woman with a child.

Another eyewitness, Ladi Joshua, said he was few metres away from the scene where the high-tension cable cut into two.

He said when the cable fell on a wooden material and caught fire, he called the fire service to the scene but that before they came, the damage had been done.

Joshua also said six people were electrocuted, while those injured were taken to the hospital.

He also confirmed the story of the man who allegedly drank poison and had to be rushed to the hospital.

According to him, the deceased were taken to the mortuary of a hospital in Yaba as they were rejected at the Gbagada General Hospital.

General Manager, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, (LASEMA), Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, when contacted said he was aware of the incident but that the matter is still under investigation.

Director, Lagos State Fire Service, Rasak Fadipe, also said the high-tension cable fell on a car loaded with premium motor spirit (PMS) otherwise known as petrol.

This caused instant fire outbreak which eventually claimed five lives.

He said those who died included two females, including a pregnant woman and three teenagers, and that the fire was prevented from spreading to nearby buildings.

Another report from Ilorin said three people among who were two kids were feared dead in the flood that followed a downpour in the Kwara State capital on Wednesday night.

The two kids were identified as Basirat, aged four and half years, and Gafar aged three years.

The flood was said to have swept them away from the residence of their grand mother along Ajase-Ipo road in the town where they had come to spend holiday.

The building is near the Royal Shekinah Ground Suites.

The remains of the third casualty were said to have been found in a stream around Coca-Cola Road in the town.

It was learnt that the kids got drowned when one of them opened the front door of their apartment in an attempt to escape the flood that had reached the window level.

Youths in the area, who were peeved by the development, reportedly descended on the Royal Shekinah Suites whose building they alleged worsened the flood and aided the death of the kids.

They had been hurling stones at the property before teams of policemen arrived on the scene and succeeded in calming them.

The heavy rain, which felled for about two hours, starting from about 11.00 p.m. on Wednesday, also destroyed many property in the town, including about

20 vehicles that were swept away.

Some buildings were also affected by the flood, as many of them had their walls caved in.

Also on Thursday, 59 persons were said to have died following an outbreak of cholera in Bauchi State.

State Commissioner of Health, Sani Malami, disclosed this at a news conference at the Government House in Bauchi on Thursday.

According to him, 54 persons died in their homes while five died during treatment in the hospital.

The commissioner attributed the 54 deaths to inability of their family members to bring them to hospital for treatment.

He said the cholera outbreak was triggered by massive movements by people from neighbouring states into Bauchi as a result of insecurity challenges and flood.

“We recorded a high causality figure because some of the victims were treating themselves at home while the deaths recorded in the treatment camps across the state was low because the victims accessed medical attention early enough,” Malami reported.

The Commissioner said the state government was able to curtail the spread of the epidemic by establishing treatment camps, chlorinating over 60 wells and dispatching medical teams who went to house to house search in 2,000 houses.

“The state government has increased access of health care centres in the state to forestall the spread of the disease and also partnered with international bodies to setup camps at the teaching hospitals across the state,” he said.

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