

Family Of Six, Neighbour Die After Meal In Zamfara

** Seven Die, 200 Treated Of Cholera In Borno*

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A family of six, comprising wife and children, and their neighbour have died from eating local food known as 'Fate' at Shiyar Ajiya in Shinkafi town, Shinkafi Local Government Area of Zamfara.

Prof. Abdullahi Shinkafi, the state acting governor, confirmed the incident to newsmen on Sunday in Gusau.

He said the seven victims who lost their lives included males and females, while the others affected were receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

Shinkafi said the government had deployed a team of medical experts to the area to investigate the cause of the incident.

"They (experts) have already taken the sample; we are waiting for them to give us the result to enable us take action.

"People close to the deceased said the death was as a result of poisoned leaf porridge which was said to be contaminated by onion seeds.

"We cannot rely on what we heard, we are waiting for medical experts to come out with the result", he added.

The acting governor said six of the deceased were from the same family comprising a wife and children.

He added that the seventh victim was their neighbour, who also ate the food.

"I led the government delegation to condole their family," Shinkafi said and urged people to check what they eat and also ensure their environment is clean.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to grant Aljannah to those who lost their lives.

Seven Die, 200 Treated Of Cholera In Borno IDPs Camp

Meanwhile, humanitarian organisation, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), on Sunday, said no fewer than seven persons died of cholera outbreak in Maiduguri in the past three weeks.

The organisation, otherwise known as Doctors without Borders, made the disclosure in a statement in Maiduguri.

The statement, signed by Anna Cillers, the MSF Medical Coordinator, noted that 200 others were admitted at Muna and Dala camps' cholera treatment centres.

Cillers stated that the seven persons who died of the disease were at the Muna internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp in Maiduguri.

She attributed the outbreak to flood caused by downpour in the past few weeks, saying that flood compounded by the poor sanitary condition caused the outbreak of the disease.

She stated that “in the last 24 hours, we received over 50 patients at MSF Cholera Treatment Unit at Dala.

“Total number of patients admitted from the start of the outbreak till now is over 200, with 100 discharged and seven deaths.”



Cillers said the organisation had scaled up activities to contain the disease and had set up two treatment centres at Muna camp and Dala area of Maiduguri.

According to her, the organisation has set up a 40-bed capacity treatment centre at Dala area of Maiduguri and has conducted chlorine spray exercise of water points, as well as distributed rehydration therapy to residents.

She advised people to seek medical attention when they fell sick and drink rehydration solution as first-aid measure against the disease.

However, the Borno Commissioner for Health, Dr. Haruna Mahalia, said eight persons died of the disease.

Mshelia confirmed the death in an electronic message on Sunday in Maiduguri.

He disclosed that the state government had set up a 30-bed capacity clinic at Muna camp to enhance treatment and control of the disease.

The commissioner said that the Borno government had sensitised community leaders to mobilise their people on hygiene and sanitation, and the need to keep their environment clean.

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