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Suspected Adulterated Kerosene Allegedly Kills 6 Persons In Delta

Kola Eke Ogiugo

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Suspected adulterated kerosene product has allegedly killed six persons in Ogwashi-Uku town, near Asaba in the last few weeks. Investigation revealed that the product with alleged hash reaction, had resulted in explosion during domestic uses in the area.

Among other things, further investigation revealed that a female primary school teacher (name withheld) at Isah-Ogwashi-Uku and her son were allegedly killed in an explosion of the suspected adulterated product around January 29, 2017. It was also gathered that most of the product explosions were as results from cooking stoves during which the victims tried to light it to prepare meals.

But the state Government through the state Commissioner for Special Duties, Mr. Chika Ossai, said the state government had moved into action to investigate the product presently in the market in Ogwashi-Uku and other areas of the state, adding the perpetrators of the adulterated product would be brought to book upon completion of investigation.

An ex-female student of a comprehensive secondary school, (name withheld) in Ogwashi-Uku who recently was also a victim of the adulterated product, is currently receiving treatment in a undisclosed hospital outside Ogwashi-Uku town.

Unconfirmed sources said that the dealers of the "killer kerosene" were sometime last year 2016 arrested by police in the state and subsequently released after allegedly "greasing their palms".

But the Police Image Maker in the state, Mr. Andrew Aniamaka dispelled as untrue, adding the police were on the trail of the dealers. Efforts by our reporter to speak with officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC) in the area proved abortive as they refused to make comments, but said they were not aware of any admitted kerosene product in the market.

It would be recalled that recently news of the "fake kerosene" products flooded various markets across the state, especially in Warri axis with locally refined kerosene illegally put on sale.

Relations of the alleged six persons who died in an explosion of the suspected killer kerosene, one of them, Honeywell Oborah confirmed that the victims died as a result of the kerosene explosion, and urged the state government to take proactive measure to stem the worsened tide.

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