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>>European Council Says Crime Has Reduce In Nigeria
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9 Footballers, 2 Coaches Die In Auto Crash

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From Achor Abimaje, Jos and Adesoji Oyinola, Lagos
December 23rd, 2008

Nine footballers with Jos North Female Team and their two coaches were roasted to death in a ghastly motor accident along Mangu - Pankshin Local Governments Road in Plateau State.

The Secretary of the Plateau State Football Association, Mr. Irmiya Makarfi who spoke to **LEADERSHIP** in Jos said that the footballers were 15 in number and were returning to Jos the Plateau State capital after a football match with a local team in Pankshin local government area of the state when the Peugeot J5 conveying them had a head-on collision with a commercial Volkswagen Golf car.

LEADERSHIP

gathered that the vehicle conveying the footballers somersaulted several times and eventually caught fire with occupants trapped and before a rescue team could get to the scene of the incident 11 of them had already been consumed by the ragging inferno.

Besides, six of the footballers who sustained serious injuries were initially rushed to the nearby hospital before they were transferred to Jos University Teaching Hospital for further treatment.

Mr. Joel Gwatau, the Plateau State Commissioner for Sports who confirmed the unfortunate incident to **LEADERSHIP** on phone said the team from Jos North Local Government Area of the State had participated in a local encounter which they lost to another team and were on their way back to Jos when the sad incident occurred.

According to him, those who lost their lives in the incident were burnt beyond recognition and those in the hospital are responding to treatment adding that the casualty was high because there was no one to come to their aid on time.

He said the state government was in the process of reaching out to the parents of the deceased and those who sustained injuries in the accident with the aim of arranging a meeting between them and the government.

At the state Ministry of Youths and Sport and Rwang Pam township Stadium Jos most of the workers and other athletes were seen in a pensive mood discussing the unfortunate incident in low tone.

Meanwhile the plateau state government has frowned at media reports and rumour that the state government was scheduled to perform the swearing in ceremony of the elected local government chairman yesterday.

A statement signed by the director of press and public affairs, Mr. James Mannok and made available to **LEADERSHIP** in Jos reiterated the state government sensitivity to the mourning mood of the people of the state especially the people of Jos north.

The statement therefore appealed to the elected chairman and the general public to remain patient and calm as the state government would inaugurate them at the appropriate time.

In a related development, tenants of House 5, Olayiwola Street, Oworonsoki, Bariga, have started counting their losses, as fire swept through their building yesterday, destroying everything in its wake.

LEADERSHIP

gathered that the fire, which started at about 3 a.m. was caused by a housewife identified as Mama Yusuff. It was learnt that the pregnant mother of two had lit a candle due to power outage in the area and went to sleep. The candle was said to have burnt a plastic stand on which it was placed, resulting in fire. When the fire started in her room, instead of her screaming for help, she ran out of the building, leaving her two children behind. Another tenant, Ifeanyi, saved the children from being consumed by the fire, **LEADERSHIP** learnt.

Other tenants and neighbours cursed the woman whom they accused of destroying their joy at this period, and turning them into destitute. The affected tenants also blamed men of the fire service for not coming to their rescue on time. Mama Yusuff, who was

Tuesday Column

Jerry Uwah

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News 24

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weeping profusely, denied being responsible for the fire. Other tenants on the ground floor of the building were lucky. **LEADERSHIP** reporter saw them packing out their belongings following fears that the damage done to the building by the fire may lead to its collapse any time.

Law

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Front Burner

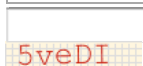
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[Deep Seated](#)

Name: Femi Okey

Subject: 9 Footballers, 2 Coaches Die In Auto Crash - Use of language

Date:

Comments: Why do Nigerian journalists used the word roasted instead of burnt; it sounds morbid and deliberate. I have found this in many newspapers articles when things have gone ablaze. Journalists need to use more sympathetic language.

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