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Rivers ogogoro death toll rises

Posted by: Vincent Ikuomola, in News 11 hours ago

- Three deaths reported in Port Harcourt
- Source of poisoned drink traced to Akwa Ibom

Three fresh deaths were recorded yesterday in the Rivers State intake of the local gin, ogogoro.

This happened as findings linked the source of the contaminated drink to Akwa Ibom State.

As at Sunday, 38 people were confirmed dead, following the consumption of the local gin, which reportedly contained methanol.

Though the fresh cases had not been confirmed at the time of filing this report last night, the Director-General of the National Agency for Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr. Paul Orhii, warned that similar cases were becoming widespread in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

Hitherto, only three local government areas of the state were affected.

Orhii, who addressed reporters yesterday in Abuja on the incident, alongside the Director-General of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Prof. Suleiman Nasidi, said samples from Rivers State had been sent to laboratories for further analysis.

Orhii said the preliminary investigations showed that the deaths were not different from what happened in Ode Irele in Ondo State, where 18 people died after consuming a similar local gin.

He warned that people should henceforth abstain from the drink for their safety.

Orhii added: "The figure may be more than what was reported as many people continue to take the product."

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The NAFDAC chief also urged Nigerians to report and evacuate to the nearest tertiary health institution as quick as possible anybody who exhibits such symptoms as voting, abdominal pain, blurred vision, headache, dizziness and loss of consciousness.

Prof Nasidi said the dog meat had nothing to do with the deaths because investigation had so proven.

The NCDC chief said the investigation was carried out in three categories: first, those who took the ogogoro without the dog meat; secondly, those who took the dog meat and the ogogoro and, thirdly, those who took only the dog meat.

He added that the result from those who took ogogoro alone was higher.

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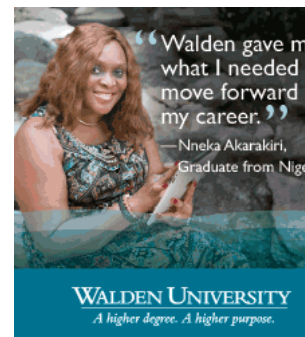
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