

## Seven die in Jos as mining site caves in

**S**EVEN people were killed yesterday in Berom community in Jos South Local Government, Plateau State, when a mining site dug by local miners suddenly caved in, trapping the 10 miners working in the pit. Of the 10 trapped workers, only three were rescued alive. The remaining seven were buried deep down under the mining pit.

The incident happened at about 6:30pm Wednesday evening in one of the numer-

ous mining site located in Jol village of Jos South Local Government near Science School, Kuru.

Witnesses informed The Nation that a rescue team organised by sympathisers from the village worked through the night digging up the massive sand in an effort to evacuate the bodies of the victims.

It took the rescue operators till early hours of yesterday

morning to be able to recover the bodies of the victims.

The incident has sparked up communal dispute between the Jos community and the neighbouring Riyom residents as both communities engaged themselves in accusations and counter-accusations of sabotage.

Residents of Riyom, who also shares in the mining business, accused their counterparts in Jol to have set the victims up for the incident.

As at the time of filing this report, the Plateau State Police Command could not confirm the incident.

Police Public Relations Officer DSP Terna Tyopev promised to inquire from the Divisional police officer in the locality.

The Nation learnt that such accidents at mining sites are never reported to the police for the fact that the local miners and the communities knew that embarking on the mining is an illegal act.