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Pipeline fire death toll now 25

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Jalingo

DEATH toll from oil pipe line fire at Kona village in Jalingo Taraba State has risen to 25, *New Nigerian* findings has revealed.

The fire was started by one of the vandals' simply called Thomas when he was prevented from filling his drums from a broken pipeline.

Thomas, it was further gathered, ignited a lighter on the broken pipeline when he was prevented from filling his drums which sparked off the fire. *New Nigerian* further learnt that 15 persons, mostly youths including Thomas were burnt to ashes while several others received various degrees of burns.

Those who were burnt were removed from the scene by their relatives for fear of being arrested by the police.

It was further learnt that out of those that were removed from the scene 10 more died bringing the number to 25.

Meanwhile, at the time of filing this report fire was raging on the pipeline which supplies refined petroleum products from Port Harcourt Refinery to Yola NNPC depot in Adamawa State.

Activities of pipeline vandals have been on in Taraba State and in Kona area for the past four months and attempts to dislodge the vandals by the police was resisted by the notorious Kona youths.

It would be recalled that the Kona youths held NTA Jalingo crew hostage for several hours when the crew went to televise some of the youths scooping petrol from a pipe they broke at Kona village.