



New NIGERIAN

New NIGERIAN
ON SUNDAY

New NIGERIAN
WEEKLY

GASKIYA
TA FI KWABO

Online Edition

Friday, October 03, 2008 11:13:40 AM January 1, 1966 ... Pioneering Responsible Journalism

[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinions](#) [Special Sections](#) [Columns](#) [Features](#) [Interviews](#) [Advert Rates](#) [About Us](#) [Contact Us](#)

News

[National News](#)
[International News](#)
[Sports](#)
[Politics](#)
[Business & Economy](#)
[Around Nigeria](#)
[Around Abuja](#)
[Around Lagos](#)

Special Sections

[Agriculture](#)
[A la Carte](#)
[Aviation](#)
[Banking & Finance](#)
[Echoes From The Dome](#)
[Education](#)
[Energy](#)
[Environment](#)
[Health & Medicine](#)
[Islam](#)
[Law](#)
[Maritime](#)
[Motoring](#)
[Property](#)
[Science & Nature](#)
[Special Reports](#)
[Women & Family](#)

Opinions

[Editorial](#)
[Letters/Issues](#)
[Opinions](#)

Columns

[Every Monday](#)
[Mind your grammar](#)
[Down to Earth](#)

COVER STORIES

Last Updated: Thursday October 2, 2008

No answers to mystery deaths in Abuja coy

From JOSHUA I. EGBODO, Abuja

WHAT may have led to the death of three staff of Mikano International Limited last Thursday and six others yet hospitalized still remains a mystery to Abuja residents.

The affected staff of the company, a Lebanese owned power generators' merchant located along Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent in Wuse II, Abuja were reported to have resumed work as usual that fateful day, only for them to start experiencing dizziness, vomiting and some dying instantly.

Two victims simply identified as Remi and Emma were said to have died immediately after vomiting at the company's premises while Yellow died later at Gboko in Benue State where he had gone to work, after reporting at the firm's office in Abuja. He was said to have slept and never woke up.

A staff of the company who spoke to our reporter under condition of anonymity said he counted himself lucky as he had earlier been sent out of town for a work which he did not finish in time to return back to Abuja the day earlier. "Who knows, I might have died or be hospitalized too," he said.

According to our source, a call only came to him from his friends not to return to the office yet as other available staffs were rushed to the National Hospital and Zankeli in the Mabushi area of the FCT when signs of what killed their colleagues were noticed on them.

Those still hospitalized were simply identified as Ifeanyi, Victor, Wale, Okoli, Pius and Yohanna who is still in an undisclosed hospital in Kaduna where he had gone to work after reporting at the Abuja office that same day.

Investigation by our reporter shows that there is yet to be any official response to the incident as people in the neighborhood have said the management of the company seems desperate to make sure the incident is muffled and shielded from the public and the authorities.

"Our thought was that the company should be closed down by the authorities, but instead, we saw policemen brought by the Lebanese managers to prevent access to the premises," a worker in a hotel near the company told our reporter yesterday.

Another respondent wondered why the parents of the deceased victims were deceived into rushing the burial of their children without investigating the cause of their death.

"Even if the cause is through chemical or gas emission in the company premises as people are insinuating, how come only the Nigerians were affected?" fumed the respondent who did not want his name in print.

When our reporter visited the company premises yesterday, the gates were under lock and key as workers were said to have deserted the place since the incident on Thursday.

Efforts to reach the Director Inspectorate, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Mr. Paul Okwulehie to obtain his comments before going to press could not yield result as several calls to his GSM number were not picked.

©2005 New Nigerian Newspapers Limited.