

Tragedy as hot porridge claims 3 children in Bauchi

AN extremely hot porridge being transported in a tricycle in Bauchi State has claimed three children's lives, aged between nine months and nine years.

News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that the porridge was being transported in a jumbo-size plastic flask when the tricycle plunged into a pothole and upturned, emptying its contents on the occupants of the tricycle.

Narrating the incident to

NAN on Sunday, a relation of the victims, Malam Auwal Bala said the tragedy occurred on Wednesday while the family was celebrating the marriage of a member.

"Three women and six children were inside the tricycle conveying the porridge, known as 'gwate' in local parlance to the venue of the event.

"The flask containing the porridge was placed inside the tricycle at the top

rear and when the tricycle plunged into a large pothole, it somersaulted and the extremely hot content of the flask poured on the children's heads, shoulders and chests.

"Three of the children namely: Aniya Yahaya, six years; Mariam Mohammed, nine years and Ibrahim Yusuf, nine months, died from serious burns, while a fourth child, Khadijah Usman, aged seven, is currently in a criti-

cal condition," Bala said.

He said one of the women also sustained injuries, while the remaining two children and two women escaped unhurt.

He said losing three members of the family, particularly children, was most traumatic, adding that they had since gone 'philosophical' about the incident.

"God giveth, God taketh, and who are we to question the will of God," he said.

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