

① 10 killed as high voltage causes fire, destroys properties in Plateau

From Isaac Shobayo | Jos

NO fewer than 10 people were killed in an early morning inferno in Kabong Area of Jos North Local Government, Plateau State, destroying several shops and houses.

Sunday Tribune gathered that an explosion from a transformer in the area

at about 3:00 am, sent a high voltage to residential houses and shops within the vicinity.

It was gathered that the loud noise from the transformer caused pandemonium and forced many people to scamper for safety, while those who tried to switch off electrical appliances from their homes were hit by the incident.

An eyewitness who did not

want his name mentioned said some of the residents of the area who tried to salvage the situation were caught up in the fire while others got electrocuted.

He said, "As at the last count, 10 dead bodies were recovered from the inferno. Seven were taken to the Plateau State Specialist Hospital, and another three to Our Lady of the Apostles Hospital. Those who sustained injuries

are also receiving treatment in these hospitals.

"About ten shops and nine residential houses were affected by the fire incident. As I am talking to you, Jos Electrical Distribution (JED) had not visited the scene of this incident."

Another resident of the area, Bitrus Yayock, said the community had made several complaints to the JED about incessant explosion

from the transformer, adding that no concrete arrangements were made to curtail the situation.

Meanwhile, JED, in a statement by its Head of Corporate Communications, Dr. Adakole Elijah, stated that preliminary investigation revealed that the accident was a result of a high-tension line snapping onto the low-tension lines, which resulted in a voltage supply outside limits.

The statement pointed out that the source feeder tripped off and affected the transmission from Makeri Transmission Station.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and communicate the facts of this regrettable incident. Equally, an evaluation of the root causes is underway, and appropriate measures will be put in place to avert future occurrences," he stated.