

Mining site collapses in Niger community, one killed, 30 others trapped

FG mobilises responders for rescue operations

From Adelowo Oladipo and
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A mining site collapsed on Monday at Garkogo village in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, killing one person and trapping 30 others.

The incident occurred after a downpour in the area.

The Director-General, Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Alhaji Abdullahi Baba Arah, in a press statement made available to newsmen on Tuesday in Minna, confirmed that the incident was caused by rain-fall, which softened the soil and made the mine to collapse.

As of the time of filing in

this report, it was gathered that one person has been confirmed dead, while six injured persons were rescued.

The statement added that about 30 others, including the site manager, Alhaji Ibrahim Ishaku, were still trapped in the mine.

The NSEMA boss said excavators had been deployed to the scene for the rescue op-

erations.

In addition, the Federal Government has mobilised first responders to the site.

A statement by Segun Tomori, Special Assistant on Media to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr Dele Alake, disclosed that the swift action of the Federal Government underscores its commitment to mitigat-

ing the impact of the incident and rescuing those still trapped in the rubble.

"Upon learning of the incident, we mobilised our Federal Mines Officer (FMO) and officials of the Mines Inspectorate to the site. In collaboration with the mining company, we have rescued seven victims, some with injuries. Rescue operations with exca-

vators are ongoing to ensure we avert loss of lives," Alake added.

It will be recalled that the minister recently announced a policy making remedial measures for mining pits mandatory as part of the criteria for applying for mining licences, and this aims to minimise such accidents.

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