

Residents groan as heat waves rock Adamawa,

Emmanuel Ande, Yola

DEADLY heat waves worsened by the absence of electricity supply to the North East state has resulted in medical emergencies that have claimed many lives.

Dr. Yusuf D. Ribadu, the Deputy Chairman Medical Advisory Committee, Training, Modibbo Adama University Teaching Hospital Yola, who spoke to *Arewa PUNCH* over the sudden spike in medical emergencies in recent times attributed the development to the heat waves rocking the state.

Though reports that over 200 persons have died over the past two weeks due to health emergencies caused by heat waves remains unconfirmed, Dr. Ribadu, however believes the situation is a repeat of what happened 37 years ago, being the last time the state

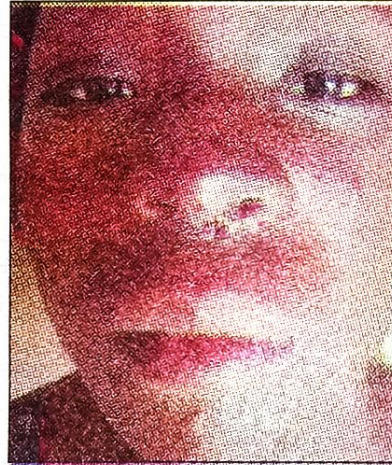


• Tangwami

experienced similar heat waves

Ribadu disclosed to *Arewa PUNCH* that, "The last deadly heat waves recorded in the state occurred 37 years ago in 1987."

He blamed power outage in the state caused by the vandalisation of the Transmission Company of Nigeria electricity supply lines



• One of heatwaves victim on admission

conveying power to the North East for worsening the living conditions of residents who are impacted by excruciating sunlight.

He explained that without steady electricity supply, residents would find it difficult to cope with the extreme weather conditions caused by the heat waves from the Sun.

Arewa PUNCH reports that

the collapse of the Transmission Company of Nigeria's power lines connecting the North East with electricity supply has further compounded the suffocating heat situation.

Some reports had earlier claimed that over 200 residents died as a result of the harsh weather conditions, however, the state government has dismissed such report.

The Commissioner for Health, Hon. Felix Tangwami, who debunked the death toll from the heat waves, said the report is not just only false but it falls below standard journalism ethics.

He said, "How can grave diggers know what caused the death of the people they are burying. The purported 200 deaths in two weeks, according to the report, and that they were buried in one cemetery, is ridiculous. No normal person can believe this kind of media report."

deaths rise

The commissioner urged members of the public to disregard the reports, adding that the story lacked professional sources.

He clarified that the measles outbreak recorded in the state two weeks ago, which killed about 49 children occurred in communities that were not vaccine compliant.

However, some residents who are victims of the heat waves have continued to lament its impact.

Mr. Sabo Umar, a tricycle operator, disclosed that three of his children are in the intensive care unit of the specialist hospital Yola and are undergoing treatments.

He narrated, "They just suddenly took ill with rashes all over their bodies and later started convulsing before we rushed all three to the hospital."

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