

One killed, 50 trapped as pit collapses in Niger

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By Chika Otuchikere

• A mining site. Source: File

A miner was killed while no fewer than 50 miners were said to have been trapped in a collapsed mining pit in Galkogo community, Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The mining site which is said to belong to “African Minerals and Logistics Limited” collapsed after a downpour in the area.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the mine collapsed on Sunday evening leaving one of the trapped miners dead while about six others were injured in the accident.

Our correspondent learnt that the site manager, Ibrahim Ishaku, was said to be among the trapped while a middle-aged man and the Chief Security Officer of the mining company whose name was given as Kuta died while trying to rescue some of the victims.

Meanwhile, six people have been rescued with various degrees of injuries and are presently receiving treatment at a government health facility in the area.

PUNCH Metro learnt that while the manual rescue operation was going on, another portion of the mining pit caved in forcing the rescuers to abandon the rescue operation running for their lives.

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As of Tuesday when this report was filed, all 50 miners were still trapped underground, triggering fears that they might have died from the collapsed pit.

The spokesman for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Hussaini Ibrahim, who confirmed the incident in a statement on Tuesday said information of the incident was still very sketchy.

“Due to the unacceptable nature of that environment as a result of banditry, the information of the incident is very scanty, including rescue operations,” he said.

Ibrahim, however, disclosed that excavators had been deployed to the scene for rescue operations.

He also confirmed that six people were kidnapped on Sunday night following bandit attacks on Adogo Mallam village in the Mashegun local government area of the state and over 20 were kidnapped in Tunga Kawo village in Erena ward of Shiroro local government with hundreds of cows rustled.