

# AREWA Report

Friday, August 4, 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE SUN PUBLISHING LIMITED ON NORTHERN STATES

[www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com)

## How 9-year-old physically challenged pupil died of malaria

From **Gyang Bere**, Jos

FOR Joshua Kestock and his spouse, Asabe, they have been unfortunate in the process of child bearing since their marriage in 2005. Their first child, Katbum, lost his sound and speech senses at birth, and the same fate befell his only younger brother, Pomark.

Despite the physical challenges of their

children, they resolved to ensure they were educated within the limits of their meager resources as peasant farmers. This prompted them to enroll Katbum about three years ago at the Plateau State School of the Deaf, a government-owned primary and secondary educational facility.

But the unexpected happened on Saturday, June 24, 2017, when he died in controversial circumstances less than 24 hours

of suffering malaria attack at the school dormitory, located at Bassa, Bassa Local Government. Aged nine, he was a primary two pupil and allegedly died due to lack of care and negligence of the school authorities.

Katbum took ill on the night of Friday, June 23. Nothing was done, as there was no single drug in the school's First Aid Box. Rather than rushing him to a medical

facility for help, the authorities allegedly left him in agony and dying slowly in his hostel, long thrown into darkness without public power supply for over 11 years. Sources said the only available generator also packed up, and the little boy was left at the mercy of God.

By the next morning when he was taken to a nearby clinic, Katbum was in death

>> PAGE 27