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## Strange disease kills four in Benue community

January 30, 2020 Cephass Iorhemen



...15 others hospitalised

A strange disease outbreak has hit Oju Local Government Area of Benue State, killing at least four people.

This came as government is struggling to tackle Lassa fever at Okpoga community in Okpokwu Local Government Area.

It was learnt that no fewer than 15 other people affected by the strange disease, whose name is not yet known, are lying critically ill at the Oju General Hospital.

Oju shares common boundary with Ebonyi and Cross River states as well as Gwer East, Konshisha and Ado local government areas of Benue State.

President-elect of Igede National Youths Council (INYC), Comrade Andyson Iji Egbodo, said the community worse hit was at a boundary settlement of Oye-Obi in Obi Local Government Area of the state.

Egbodo said the sickness had killed four persons in two weeks and named the victims as Happiness Ogbu, Onah Ogbedu, Andy Edu and Wisdom Agwo.

He said: "The sickness has killed four persons. They developed symptoms of headache, internal heat, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach ache, weakness of the body and swollen stomach and died."

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Egbodo hinted that health authorities in Oju had been briefed on the development, and called on the state government to as a matter of urgency do something to arrest the situation.

He said since the disease outbreak, the INYC had not rested on its oars in carrying out mass mobilisation and awareness campaign on how to prevent its spread.

Egbodo added that about six more persons were yesterday down with the disease, developing same symptoms.

He called on all members of the state and National Assembly as well as government appointees from Iggede land to rise up against the dreaded illness.

The state Commissioner for Health and Human Resources, Hon. Ongbabo Elaigwu Sunday, confirmed the outbreak.

He said: "It is true that the sickness has affected the people and the state government has deployed the state focal person and a team of medical experts to the area to help contain the situation. We are thinking of Lassa fever but also thinking of a strange disease. Some persons have also died of the disease."

Chairman, Caretaker Committee of Oju Local Government, Mrs. Alicia Eru, refused to pick her calls when our correspondent called several times to get her reaction on the matter.

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