

Pipeline Fire: Family of 6, 14 Others Perish

At least 20 persons have been confirmed dead, following a fire outbreak at a vandalized NNPC pipeline in Kaurani and Wapa villages of Mayo Belwa local government area of Adamawa state, while scooping fuel.

The incident which occurred last Sunday, consumed an entire family of six, including the man, his two wives and three other children.

The district head of the Kaurani, Mallam Jauro, who conducted the Adamawa state deputy governor Alhaji Bello Tukur round the site of the incident, stated that illegal scooping of petroleum products at the village while the incident occurred have been going on for sometime and that he had reported the illegal activities to the local government authorities.

According to Mallam Jauro, the fire outbreak occurred when one of the vandals allegedly mis-

From Matthew Onah in Yola

takenly failed to put out his cigarette before going near the site of the pipeline. Adding that the illegal activities often take place in the night, while they prevent people from coming close during daytime, adding that they use to

come with arms and thus scare away most of the villagers.

The chairman of the local government Engineer Stephen Albert, stated that the activities of the vandals have earlier been reported to the security agencies such as Nigeria Civil defence and security corp and the Nigerian police force, adding that the van-

dals had mounted a road block around the sites and had frustrated attempts of the local government vigilante group from guarding the area.

The deputy governor, Alhaji Tukur who had directed the burial of the burnt corpses to avoid an outbreak of communicable disease in the area.

National Hospital Discharges Another Crash Survivor

Only four out of the nine survivors of the ADC plane crash are still receiving treatment at the National Hospital, Abuja.

The Assistant Director of Information Services at the hospital, Malam Yahaya Sadiq, said yesterday in Abuja that one more patient was discharged on Monday. Sadiq did not disclose the name or sex of the discharged patient.

On the condition of one of

the survivors who is in the intensive care unit, he said the patient was improving by the day.

He also said 17 out of the 21 corpses of crash victims deposited at the facility had been claimed and collected.

Sadiq said the remaining four corpses had been identified, but were yet to be collected.

On how long the hospital could wait for the bodies to be collected, Sadiq said it had not

gotten to that point, as there were indications that efforts were being made to pick them.

Meanwhile, the Federal Ministry of Health has said it had fumigated the crash site to avoid any possible epidemic in the area.

A statement from the ministry yesterday in Abuja said the essence of the exercise which was carried out last Saturday was to kill and suppress germs and other bacteria that could develop from decomposing body parts.

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Imo Govt Closes Secondary Schools