



Strange ailment: Death toll rises to 3 in Kano

●284 persons hospitalised ●13 arrested in connection with killer juice ●We drank expired juice —Victim

By Bashir Bello

A yet-to-be-identified disease has reportedly claimed three lives in Kano State and 284 other persons hospitalised in 25 health facilities across the state.

The state's Commissioner of Health, Dr Aminu Tsanyawa, who confirmed the outbreak of the strange disease at a news conference in Kano, yesterday, explained that the disease, whose outbreak was recorded on March 10, was suspected to have been caused by consumption of contaminated juice drink.

He said about 13 persons have been arrested in connection with the killer juice.

The commissioner said the task force under the ministry had so far confiscated assorted drinks worth over N59 million, which are suspected to have been consumed by the victims.

He said initially the residents suspected a foul play with water they consumed but upon analysis, the results showed the water is free from any form of contamination, hence its resolve to analyze the jolly juice and awaiting the result.

The commissioner said 284 persons were infected with the disease in 13 local government areas of the state, adding that 101 of them had been discharged with 183 currently on admission.

He listed the affected areas as Dala, Gwale, Kano Municipal, Fage, Ungogo, Kumboto, Tarauni, Bunkure, Rano, Dawakinjudu, Dawakin Tofa, Gwarzo and Danbatta.

He said: "The index is a six-year-old girl, who developed abdominal pain, vomiting, jaundice and urine with blood (hematuria) after drinking water bought from a vendor."

"The vendor was said to have sourced the water from a borehole at a cemetery in the metropolis."

"The assumption involves instant drink flavour powder and a variety of salt for industrial use (caustic powder)."

"Water, blood and different instant drink flavour powder samples have been taken for tests to pin down a diagnosis, ranging from food-borne disease, food poisoning, Lassa fever, yellow fever, dengue fever, chemical poisoning to toxic hepatitis."

Ministry awaiting results of samples analyses

Tsanyawa noted that the ministry was still awaiting the results of samples analyses to establish the cause(s) of the infection and identify the disease.

He added that the ministry had stepped up sensitisation and engagement with stakeholders to ensure that people became aware of the recent development and know the best way to protect themselves.

He said: "The ministry is working closely with the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, and the State Consumer Protection Council, KSCPC."

"We have deployed personnel and scaled up surveillance in the 44 local government areas of the state to check the circulation of the suspected products."

"The state government is

providing free treatment to the infected persons, while 13 others had been arrested in connection with the circulation of the suspected product."

According to him, the state Task Force on Fake and Counterfeit Products has seized counterfeit and expired products worth over N59 million in the past five days in the state.

We drank expired juice— Victim

Meanwhile, a victim and resident of Warure in Gwale Local Government Area, Siyama Rabiu, who prepared the juice for their home consumption, said about 13 of them from the same family were hospitalised after consuming the

juice, which she said has expired since October 2020.

She said her baby was first to come down with stomach upset, vomiting and passing out urine with blood and later all of them in the house followed suit.

"After cooking our meal, I made local juice for our consumption in the house. About 10 minutes after we consumed the drink, my smallest daughter came down with vomiting. After some time, one after the other, we all became infected in the house. We were 13 in the house while our neighbours were six. Our urine was coming out with blood. Our skin colour changed to yellow."

"We initially thought it was the water we bought from the water vendors. It was later that we discovered that the juice we drank

expired since October 2020.

"We went to the chemist and we were given injections. The following morning, we proceeded to a Primary Healthcare Centre, where they gave us drips. They referred us to another hospital, from where we were referred to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. Some people came, it seems they were from the Ministry of Health and they took our blood for a test in Abuja."

"So far, one person died after drinking the juice. He is an elderly man. We, the remaining, were hospitalised in Zanah Hospital. Seven persons, including five children, have been discharged."

"Only five of us are remaining in the hospital. Our health has improved except that our urine is still coming out with blood. We were given about 28 drips of blood."

Herdsmen menace: Farmer recounts near-death experience in Enugu

By Ikechukwu Odu

NSUKKA—A 34-year-old farmer at Igga, Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, Chinedu Elobie, yesterday, recounted his near-death experience in the hands of suspected herdsmen in his community.

Elobie, who spoke from his orthopaedic hospital bed in Enugu metropolis, said the two suspected herdsmen attacked him with machetes, leaving him in the pool of his blood when they thought he was dead.

He further said after the suspects hit him at the back, they aimed for his skull, adding that he managed to block the machete cut directed to his head with his arm before pretending to have died.

He also said at that point, the suspects said "he is dead," and fled the scene.

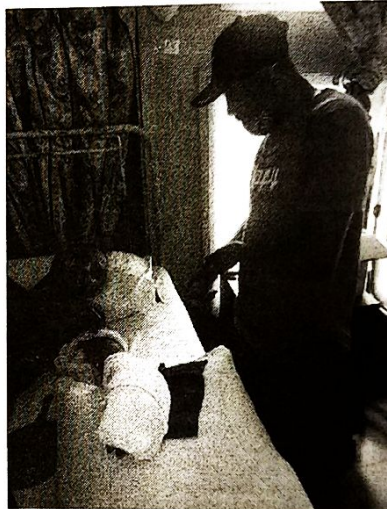
He added: "When they fled, I opened my eyes and waggled my way through the bush path till I got to a safe distance where I raised the alarm."

Yaro commissions new police outstation in Zamfara

A new police outstation has been commissioned in Anguwan Shado/Yan Dorayi, Tudun Wada area of Gusau, Zamfara State by the state Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro.

Yaro, who commissioned the police station, which was constructed and donated to Zamfara State Police Command by IBCON Global Resources Limited, Gusau reinstated his commitment to protect and secure the lives and property of all residents of the state regardless of location, stressing that increased attention would be paid to suburb areas of the state.

While commissioning the police outstation, Yaro, thanked the donor on behalf of the Inspector General of Police for the contribution to the Police Command and community in general. The gesture, according to the CP, is a clear demonstration that the community Policing project of the Inspector General



Elobie on his hospital bed in Enugu

"It was a hunter who heard me calling for help that came to my rescue. I was already very tired due

to loss of blood before help came my way."

"I was walking home from the farm with my elder brother when the attack happened. My brother suspected what they were about to do and fled but because we didn't have any misunderstanding with them, I didn't know they will attack me."

"The police, Neighbourhood Watch, and Forest Guard personnel are all aware of this. I am surprised my brother who visited home told me the security agents have not done anything to apprehend the suspects."

When Vanguard

contacted the spokesperson of Enugu State Police Command, Daniel Ndukwe, he promised to confirm the report.



Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, CP Abutu Yaro, cutting the tape at the commissioning of a police station in Anguwan Shado/Yan Dorayi, Tudun Wada area of Gusau, the state capital constructed and donated to the state Police Command by IBCON Global Resources Limited.

of Police is working tremendously in Zamfara State.

He, therefore, called on other individuals and groups to emulate the company by embarking on security-related projects that will improve the peace and safety of the citizens.

According to the Managing Director IBCON Global Resources

Limited, Alhaji Sani Muktar, said: "The construction of the Police station is part of our civic responsibility to complement the efforts of the state government under the leadership of Dr Bello Matawalle and the security agencies in finding a lasting solution to the security challenges in the state."