

One dies, 55 others hospitalised as mysterious ailment hits Kano community • Victims vomit, urinate blood

By Abdulmumin Murtala

KANO— ONE person has been reported dead while no fewer than 56 other residents of Gwangwan village in Rogo Local Government Area, Kano State, have been hospitalised following an outbreak of a mysterious ailment that causes victims to vomit and urinate blood.

The villagers of Gwangwan, 136 kilometres from Kano metropolis, have been terrified by the outbreak.

A member of the community, Muhammad Tukur, said six areas

in the village were affected and about 56 persons have contracted the ailment since the outbreak.

He said: "Areas affected by the outbreak of the disease include Unguwan Rijiyan Dadi, Gwanwan Gabas, Gwangwan Yamma, Unguwar Tsarmai, Gangare, and Unguwar Kofar Fada.

"We rushed no fewer than 30 people to the Rogo General Hospital within a day of the outbreak, while others were taken to Gwarzo Hospital. So far only one person has died as a result of the outbreak. Most of the victims of the disease have complained of

spending a lot of money on the disease."

A man whose two children have been affected, complained that he had spent over N20,000 in the hospital for their treatment in the midst of the economic difficulties.

Another man, whose eight family members were affected, said he was completely devastated, lamenting that "some of the affected family members that include my wife, mother and children cannot even stand on their feet as a result of the severity of the disease. I have so far spent N100,000 between Rogo Hospital and Gwarzo Hospital

without any fruitful result."

A staff of the village clinic, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the disease was beyond what the clinic could handle, hence the victims were referred to Rogo Hospital.

However, officials of the Rogo Hospital, who did not want their names in print, said they were unaware of any disease outbreak.

But a personnel in charge of diseases outbreak at the Ministry of Health in Kano, said the ministry received report of the outbreak, but noted that only four persons were affected, treated and discharged.