

Power surge fire kills 11, injures several others in Zaria

By Ibrahim Hassan

KADUNA—NO fewer than 11 persons lost their lives; while several others were injured yesterday in Zaria, Kaduna State, following a power surge that resulted in an inferno that razed houses and business premises.

The incident was said to have happened around 1 am in communities around Gwargwaje area of Zaria Local Government Area, LGA.

According to source, the fire affected all the houses in the three communities, the Police Barracks, the New Layout Unguwar Major Aliyu and New Kauran Juli layout.

It was gathered that the injured are receiving treatment at different hospitals in Zaria.

Though details of how the deceased died, The Kaduna Electric Company said the incident was as a result of High Tension line snap on the low tension line, which resulted in voltage supply outside limits.

While confirming the incident; the Zaria office of the Kaduna State Fire Service said the 11 people who died were from communities around Gwargwaje area of Zaria LGA, informing that a house was completely burnt and some business premises were destroyed in the fire incident which occurred around 1 am on Wednesday.

A community leader in the area, Bature Aliyu, told journalists that the fire affected all the houses in the three communities, the Police Barracks, the New Layout Unguwar Major Aliyu and New Kauran Juli layout.

According to him, "Power supply was restored late in the night with full force, (high voltage) which resulted in a fire that spread to the communities. All the

Keep-off Benue, NAPTIP warns human traffickers

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—THE National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, Makurdi Zonal Command has empowered 15 rescued human trafficking victims to enable them start up businesses and sustain themselves.

This is as it warned human traffickers to stay away from Benue State or face the wrath of the law.

Distributing the empowerment materials which included sewing machines as well as hair dryers and other hair dressing tools at the Command Headquarters in Makurdi, the Zonal Commander of the Agency, Mrs. Gloria Bai said the items were made available by the Director General of the Agency, Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi to

transformers, high tension and service lines were on fire. Anywhere you touched would shock until the power was cut off from the source."

Kaduna Electricity's Head of Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, in a statement, expressed sadness over the incident, saying preliminary investigation revealed that the incident was as

a result of high tension line snap on the low tension line, which resulted in voltage supply outside limits.

"The source feeder was immediately opened on emergency to avoid further damage. Kaduna Electric expresses deepest sympathy to the families who encountered losses as a result of the incident. We are grateful to His Royal Highness, Ambassador Ahmed Barnali, Emir of Zazzau for his support to all in managing the effects of the incident."

enable the beneficiaries have a source of livelihood.

Mrs. Bai explained that the Agency provided the beneficiaries the items in fulfillment of the promises it made to them when they were rescued.

She said, "When we heard of your issues and we brought you in, we told you that we will assist you and ensure you have sources and means of livelihood and not left at the mercy of anyone. That is why we are doing this today."

The Commander urged them to put the materials to good use and not sell them, promising that the agency would continue to monitor their progress assuring them that "we know that you may still need more assistance and if we see that you are doing well with what we have given you today, NAPTIP with the support of our partners and government

will still give you more empowerment. Our Director General is always there and ever willing to ensure that we assist and support you to live better lives."

Responding, one of the beneficiaries who got a sewing machine (name withheld) said she was overwhelmed by the gesture. She commended officials of the command for the selfless care and attention they gave her saying "I still cannot believe that they can offer this kind of selfless service to a person like me. We will continue to remain grateful and also pray for the Commander and her staff for always treating us like their own children and relatives; we are grateful."

She promised to use the sewing machine to start a fashion designing business from which she would be earning a living.

2022 flood: Benue farmers others get N717.88m agro inputs