

# SUNDAY

## MAGAZINE



■ Sight of rock being blasted at Durumi Mpape on March 22, 2019  
PHOTOS: Simon Echewofun Sunday

## Quarry activities, borehole drilling

## pose risks to Abuja residents, others

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

Enewa Agbo returned from work on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, from Abuja city to the nearby Mpape suburb. As she made to take her bath, Enewa noticed a strange movement of her bucket of water as the earth shook. She was terrified and moved out of the bathroom, but her bed also moved a little.

This was a firsthand experience of one of those who witnessed a series of earth tremors that

occurred in the Maitama and Mpape areas of Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria in September and November 2018.

*Daily Trust on Sunday* spoke with other witnesses of the incident at Mpape, a 10-minute drive from the Presidential Villa, where quarry activities take place.

Some of those who spoke with our reporter said they had to leave their houses out of panic while government officials were contacted on the strange occurrence.

Although there were no visible effects on buildings after the multiple occurrences, the incidents remain fresh on the minds of the people, six months after.

Ms Enewa, who resides at Baban Ba Street, said, “I experienced the tremor that occurred in Mpape twice in September 2018. At the bathroom, I felt the tiles were sort of moving. I held my bucket because it was moving strangely. By the time I went to the room to lie on the bed, it was shaking. It was as if it was moving mysteriously.

“I took my phone and called a neighbour to explain what I was seeing and she came out running from her house because she was experiencing the same phenomenon.”

Also, Abu Danladi, who lives behind Ecobank in the suburb, said he woke up to another incident, the second in the series. “My bed started shaking again. We all ran out of the house and saw other neighbours from different houses with the same complaint,” he said.

They said each incident did not last long. While one lasted for few minutes, the other was for about 30 seconds.

### Report spells doom for borehole drilling

Shortly after the September tremors, a presidential committee on enquiries was set up. The committee, chaired by the director-general of the National Space Research and Development

Continued on page 18