Amina Mohammed - Living In Nyanya Labour Camp, One Of Abuja's Filthiest Slums



August 2014. On a recent Sunday afternoon, Gloria Akan walks out of a small cubicle behind her house where she had answered the nature's call.

At the Nyanya labour camp, one of Abuja's poorest slums, where she lives, Mrs. Akan and her family have used the latrine inside the cubicle for the last two years. Yet, she dreads the thought of returning there each time she is pressed. Her greatest worry, however, is that her family shares the little latrine and a bathroom with five other families. Due to overuse, the toilet facilities have broken down, with coloured stinking water dripping from one of the pipes inches away from her bedroom window. The Akans are only one among hundreds who live under terrible conditions at the Nyanya Labour Camp, a 20-minute drive from the Abuja city centre. The camp was originally built by the Federal Government over 30 years ago to accommodate the labourers who built the Abuja city. The houses were designed for one occupant per room, with the rooms facing each other. The rooms are built in clusters of five in a section for the lowest class and six-room-ina-row blocks of one bedroom flats for others. After the labourers left, the Abuja administration transferred the houses to civil servants and low ranking police officers.

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