

City Beats

January 6, 2026 by [Tony Akowe, Abuja](#) and [Sanni Onogu, Abuja](#)

Death toll in Niger market attack rises to 50



- ***Yobe boat accident: Deaths hit 29***
- ***Speaker Abbas, Akpoti-Uduaghan condemn attacks***

Death toll from the attack on Kasuwan Daji Market in **Niger State**, which claimed at least 42 persons and left several others abducted has hit 50.

Also, the number of deaths from the Saturday's boat accident in Nguru Local Government Area of Yobe State, has risen from 25 earlier announced by the state government, to 29.

Both the Speaker, House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, and Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan condemned the attack and mourned the dead.

Executive Secretary, Yobe State's Emergency Management Agency (YOSEMA), Dr Mohammad Goje, in a statement yesterday, said four more bodies were recovered from the river, adding that search and rescue would continue as between eight and 10 passengers were still missing.

Goje said 13 passengers who were injured had been treated and discharged from a local hospital.

The executive secretary said preliminary reports indicated that overloading and structural defect were among the major causes of the accident.

He said following the incident, Governor Mai Mala Buni directed YOSEMA to liaise with relevant Federal Government agencies on safety measures in water transportation.

He said through such collaboration, policing of water transportation would become possible and the use of life jackets could be enforced.

“Once this is achieved, you can ensure that those that will board a canoe must wear life jackets, and that should be institutionalised,” he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the ill-fated boat, which took off from Adiyani in neighbouring Jigawa, capsized on Yobe River in Garbi town about 7:48 pm on Saturday.

Over 50 passengers mainly farmers and traders were believed to be on board when the incident occurred in the area, which is over 230 km from Damaturu, the state capital.

In a statement yesterday, the Speaker asked the security and intelligence agencies to carry out to the letter the order by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the manhunt of the perpetrators.

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While describing the attack as gruesome, Abbas urged the security forces to show results as they followed the presidential order.

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The Speaker, who commended President Tinubu for providing the needed leadership at critical times said the House is ever ready to provide legislative interventions where necessary.

Abbas commiserated with the families of those killed by the attackers while praying to God to heal those who were injured. He sent condolences to the people and the government of Niger State over the attack, in a condolence message signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Musa Abdullahi Krishi.

“This unfortunate incident has left us all in deep mourning, robbing families of their loved ones and communities of their vibrant members.

“I pray for the repose of the souls of the departed. May Allah also grant quick recovery to the injured and fortify the survivors with strength during this trying time,” the Speaker lamented.

The Speaker further assured that the House stands in solidarity with Yobe and will continue to support measures aimed at preventing such avoidable tragedies anywhere in the country.

Also, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan has condemned the attack on Kasuwan Daji Market in Niger State.

In a statement yesterday, Akpoti-Uduaghan described the attack as an incident that underscored the security challenge in communities.

She mourned those killed in the assault and said the victims.

The senator expressed sympathy with those affected by the loss of lives, abductions and destruction of property.

She also expressed concern over the burning of the market and the impact of the violence on livelihoods.

Akpoti-Uduaghan urged security agencies to intensify efforts to track down the perpetrators.

She appealed to the Federal Government to strengthen security measures, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities, and adopt proactive strategies aimed at preventing similar incidents.