

Kano jailbreak a failure -Comptroller

Contributed by Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Kano
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No prison inmate escaped in an attempted jailbreak in Kano at the weekend, the Kano state Comptroller of the Nigeria Prison Service, said yesterday. Briefing newsmen on last Friday's jail break attempt, Alhaji Muhammad Habeeb Ilyasu said that investigations conducted by the prison authority after the incident indicated that the total of 1277 inmates detained in the state central prison are still there.

Alhaji Habeeb confirmed two inmates were killed in the riot, one of them was shot by prison guards while the other died in hospital while receiving treatment from an injury he suffered during the protest. He explained further that three prison warders attached to the central prison were hospitalised due to injuries they sustained while controlling the aggrieved prisoners.

The comptroller also denied rumours that the central prison was attacked by a gang of armed robbers in an attempt to rescue their colleagues, affirming that the incident was purely in-house.

He however attributed the cause of the incident to the prisoners' psychological tension, saying that the episode started with a protest staged by the inmates shortly after the Juma'at mosque.

"From the outcome of our findings, 70% of the 950 inmates who staged the protest are awaiting trial men who have spent over eight years in the prison without trial."

Alhaji Ilyasu admitted that the Kano central prison has only 196 prisoners, the situation which he said is quite disturbing.