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1 trader, 200 shops perish in another Kano market fire



Written by Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

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One trader was burnt to ashes as over 200 temporary shops were razed in an early morning fire at Rimi Market in the heart of Kano city. Daily Trust learned that as the cold season sets in by the day in Kano, fire incidents in the major markets of the state have become a recurring decimal of late.

The affected part of the market was the section where second-hand clothing materials are sold and almost all the makeshift shops in the section were made of zinc roofing sheet and other contraptions.

Daily Trust gathered that the dead trader, whose shop doubled as his home, was sleeping in his shop when the incident occurred.

Our reporter learnt that the dead trader, who was simply identified as Sani, was reportedly attempted to escape but succumbed to the roaring effect of the inferno. Although no official statement as to the number of the burnt makeshift shops, the traders claimed the fire gutted over 200 shops, just as millions of naira were equally lost.

According to eyewitness, when the mysterious fire broke in the wee hours of Sunday, the traders were alerted to salvage their wares but before they reached the market, the fire had engulfed their stalls beyond salvation.

A trader, Alhaji Sani Ango, whose shop was affected by the fire told our reporter that he lost about N120,000 to the fire. Another female trader, Maman Hanifa however said she lost about N65,000 property to the blaze.

While calling on government to come to their rescue through compensation, they urged the state government to take serious measures toward forestalling the future recurrence of the fire in the market.

When contacted for comment, the head of Operations, Kano State Fire Service, Kasim Bichi said they are still working on the data, assuring that the official statement would be made available to newsmen.

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