

# Supporter dies as Buhari receives Masari, others into CPC

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

A supporter of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) yesterday died of suffocation at a rally organized by the party in Katsina to welcome former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Bello Masari, and other new entrants into the party.

Leader of the party and former ANPP presidential candidate, retired General Muhammadu Buhari who received the new entrants, in an address, expressed delight with the heavy turnout, particularly by the younger generation. While commending the resolve of the new entrants to join the struggle for the emancipation of Nigerian democracy and its people, he urged the younger generation to guard themselves from continued stay in penury by insisting that their votes are counted.

He emphasized the need for the people to vote, guard, escort and wait for their votes so as to ensure a repeat of what transpired in Bauchi, Kano and Lagos states in the last elections where people insisted on the legitimacy of their votes.

About 39,000 people who moved from the ruling PDP, ANPP and (AC) were received at the occasion. Prominent among them were the former secretary to the Katsina State government, Dr Mustapha Inuwa, and former Senators M.T Liman and Abdu Yandoma.

Those who spoke at the occasion include the national chairman of the CPC, Senator Rufa'i Hanga, Senator Buba Galadima, Hon Farouk Adamu, Hon Lawal Garba Daura, Hon Abubakar Saddiq Yar'adua as well as the three gubernatorial aspirants, Senator Abu Ibrahim, Engr Nura Khalil and Alhaji Munnir Yakubu.

In a remark on behalf of the decampees, the former Speaker, House of Representatives, Aminu Bello Masari, said they were forced to leave the PDP because of the injustice being perpetuated in the party and the irredeemable manner with which the party continues to operate.

Meanwhile, the state Police Commissioner, Sabo Ibrahim Ringim, who confirmed the death of the supporter to this reporter, said he collapsed during the rally and was rushed to the Katsina General Hospital where he was confirmed dead due to suffocation. Many people suffocated due to the heavy crowd of supporters that besieged the state secretariat of the party.

A source at the party secretariat informed our correspondent that the party initially applied for a bigger venue at the state polo ground but was turned down.