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Trailer crushes 13 Kano traders

Wednesday, 16 March 2011 00:00

Jaafar Jaafar, Kano



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A Kano-bound trailer Monday night ran into tomato traders at the Kwanar Gafan tomato market in Garun Malam Local Government Area of Kano State, killing 13 roadside traders. Eight other traders also sustained injuries in the accident.

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Kwanar Gafan market is a seasonal highway market where trading activities take place on either side of the road, causing slow traffic movement and congestion. Although road safety officials said the driver might have fallen asleep when the accident occurred, police authorities and witnesses held a contrary view, saying it was actually the front tyre of the vehicle that got burst.

Witnesses said the victims were sitting in front of their wares when the trailer with Bauchi registration number XA 619 KGG crushed them. "The drivers should be reducing their speed because people display their wares near the highway," said a witness.

Our correspondent gathered that 12 persons died on the spot, while one trader died at the emergency unit of the Murtala Mohammed General Hospital in Kano.

When our correspondent visited the hospital, two persons were still lying unconscious, while three other victims were responding to treatment. Hospital officials who pleaded anonymity said three victims who were not severely injured were discharged yesterday morning. Information officer of Garun Malam Local Government, Malam Sanusi Kofar Na'isa, said when the local government attempted to relocate the market to its original site, the traders opposed the move.

"The local government understood the imminent danger and made several attempts to relocate the market. It is unfortunate that the traders failed to heed the call," he said. The head of the Interim Management Committee of the local government, Alhaji Kabir Nasarawa, said the local government would relocate the market to its designated site, far away from the highway.

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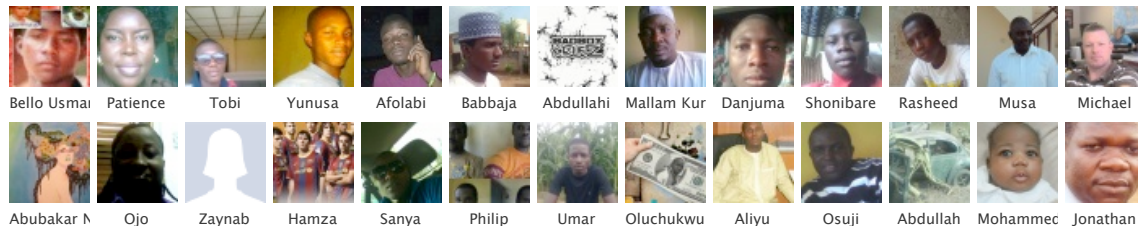
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