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1 KILLED, 30 INJURED IN JOS MARKET INFERNO

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One person died while 30 others were injured following a fire incident that destroyed many shops at Laranto Grain market in Jos-North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Daily Trust gathered that the fire started at about 9.30pm on Tuesday and that it took the combined efforts of the state fire service, security agencies as well as members of the public to bring it under control at about 2: 00am yesterday.

Speaking to newsmen, Chairman of Laranto Market Association, Lucky Umeh said: "On Tuesday evening, my attention was drawn to the fire at our market. When I reached the scene, many people were seen battling with the fire. In the process, over 30 people collapsed. They were rushed to the hospital and this morning (Wednesday), I was told that one of the victims died while receiving medical attention".

Umeh added: "The incident has demonstrated the unity, love and peaceful coexistence we are talking about in Jos, as people of the city yesterday showed oneness in battling the fire. We could not differentiate between Muslims and Christians in the area, we all worked together. We are at present experiencing poor patronage and now fire has destroyed everything. We call on the government to come to our aid".

On his part, chairman of the Grain Market Association of the market, Kabiru Lawal said the fire started shortly after power was restored.

"The fire started from a shop where the owners operate a grinding machine. A security man in the market called me and told me that fire had broken out at Alhaji Garba's grinding shop, and before I could get to the scene, the fire had spread," he said.

The state Coordinator of Red Cross Manaseh Pamppe said his men offered first aid treatment to victims at the scene of the incident.

Also speaking, Public Relations Officer of North-central zone of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Yohanna Audu said men from the agency visited the hospitals where the victims were receiving treatment and that they confirmed the death of one person.

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