

# THE WORLD NEWS II

## Bauchi blast toll rises, as govt picks medical bills

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Three more persons among those injured in Friday's bomb blast at People's Hotel in Bayan Gari, Bauchi, have died at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) Bauchi while receiving treatment, raising the casualty figure to 13 dead and 34 injured.

Bauchi State Commissioner for Health, Dr Abubakar Sani Malami, told newsmen in Bauchi yesterday that 10 corpses were first brought to the hospital and 17 victims were successfully treated and discharged.

There are 17 others with varying degrees of injury who are still on admission while a few would have to go to the theatre because of the seriousness of their situation, he said.

He said the health ministry was monitoring the situation to ensure that all the victims get the required treatment and assured that the hospital is well equipped with efficient staff.

The Commissioner of Police Lawal Shehu had said 11 people died while 28 were injured.

Governor Isa Yuguda has directed that all the injured be treated free of charge on the bill of the state government, just as he sympathized with families of those killed.

The governor who gave the directive when he went round hospitals within Bauchi metropolis where victims were taken, directed the State Ministry of Health to ensure that the injured victims receive adequate medical attention no matter the cost.

He further directed that those that need to be referred to other hospitals outside the state for proper medical attention be taken out without any delay, according to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Ishola Michael Adeyemi.

Yuguda assured that his administration would do everything possible to curb terrorism in the state, saying security operatives had been briefed on measures to protect lives and property in the state.

He condemned the blast and condoled with families of all those affected.

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