



# Death toll in Jos blasts rises to 20

From Onimisi Alao, Lami Sadiq & Hassan Ibrahim, Jos

**T**he health authorities, managing the casualties of last Thursday's evening twin bomb blasts in Jos, have said that 20 people have died, while at least 18 seriously injured.

One of the injured, Mr Umaru Dahiru, cursed the unidentified culprits.

"These people, who threw those bombs, killing so many people and injuring so many others, will not live well and they will not die well," Dahiru said from his hospital bed at the Plateau Specialist Hospital, Jos; one of the three hospitals to which the injured were taken, following the explosions launched

from two separate moving vehicles on either side of Jos city's Bauchi Road close to the main campus of University of Jos.

Dahiru, a suya seller by the gate of the Bauchi Road Central Motor Park, who was lucky to survive the second blast that claimed eight of his fellow traders at the entrance gate of the Park, said he and his colleagues heard the first blast, less than a kilometre away.

He said they were still wondering whether it was a thunderstorm because it was raining, when the second explosive, which was thrown at them, exploded.

"I was thrown up. I didn't know what happened next till I found myself here," Dahiru said.

The Deputy Chief Medical Director of Plateau Specialist

Hospital, Dr Goluwa Philemon said 17 corpses were brought to the hospital. At the Bingham University Teaching Hospital, also in Jos, the Chief Medical Director, Dr. Musa Dankyau, said three of the four injured persons brought to the hospital had died while the fourth was receiving treatment.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor of 'University of Jos, (Unijos) Professor Hayward Mafuyai has said that none of his student died as a result of the twin blasts which occurred near the university.

Mafuyai, who visited the NUJ Press Centre in Jos to debunk some media reports, alleging that 12 students of the university died, said he had made extensive investigations which assured him that only one student sustained a minor injury.

Also, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Barr. Simon Lalong, and that of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Gyang Pwajok, have paid solidarity visits to the injured in hospitals around Jos.

Both candidates, who paid separate visits to the Plateau Specialist Hospital and Bingham University Teaching Hospital along with their supporters, condemned the suspected terrorists who carried out the act and prayed for the quick recovery of the injured.

In the spirit of mourning the dead and sympathy for the injured, the APC and the Lalong/Tyoden Campaign Organization have suspended their scheduled campaign activities.

## PDP's allegation on Tinubu's Vice Presidency outlandish, diversionary - APC