

1 dies, 3 slump in stampede as hoodlums loot palliatives in Gwagwalada

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

... Police repel attempt in Kwali

A middle-aged woman died yesterday after she slumped during a stampede when hoodlums invaded a warehouse in Gwagwalada and carted away palliatives.

A source at the St. Mary's Hospital where the unidentified woman was taken to confirmed to Daily Trust that the woman died shortly after she was brought in.

Three other persons also slumped during the stampede but were later revived.

The warehouse, opposite Local Education Authority (LEA) in the metropolis was broken into by hoodlums and residents to loot foodstuff.

Looters on Sunday pillaged items from warehouses in Gwagwa, Idu and Jabi, defying security presence even when teargas was thrown to disperse the crowds.

Daily Trust learnt that the four victims suffocated during the rush into the warehouse, but they were later revived after water was poured on them.

The palliatives, comprised of spaghetti, noodles, sugar, salt, bags of rice, bags of beans, cartons of tomatoes, cartons of vegetable oil, bags of fertilizer and other condiments.

Our reporter also observed that security personnel drafted to maintain order in the area also scrambled for the palliatives as some touts inside the warehouse threw out the palliatives through the window.

Scores of people were also injured while trying to scale the barb-wired fence of the warehouse to loot the items.

Soldiers later arrived at the scene to disperse the hoodlums but they resisted.

However, attempts by some hoodlums to invade a warehouse

where palliatives are kept inside the Kwali Area Council secretariat were foiled by a combined team of police and men of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

Some of the hoodlums were seen carrying sticks, holding stones, clubs and some weapons, as they attempted to force their way into the secretariat, but were repelled by armed security personnel.

"Despite that, they insisted that they must be allowed into the secretariat's warehouse. I immediately reached out to security agents who came and prevented them access into the secretariat," an aide to the council chairman who prefers to be anonymous said.

He, however, said the hoodlums first went to the main warehouse by the highway and looted all the grains and fertilizer before they

came back and attempted to go into the secretariat's warehouse but the security prevented them.

Our reporter, who visited the Kwali warehouse close to the highway, observed that the main door of the structure was destroyed by the hoodlums while the warehouse had been emptied.

Meanwhile, the staff of the council who were in their various offices scampered to safety when some of the hoodlums holding sticks and stones attempted to force their way into the secretariat.

The Council Chairman, Danladi Chiya, while speaking with our reporter via telephone said he was in a meeting with the FCT minister over the incident.

When contacted, the spokesperson of the FCT police command, ASP Mariam Yusuf, did not pick calls or reply to text messages sent to her.