

Sultan Maccido, Senator son, 96 others die in plane crash



• Sympathisers and rescue workers at the site of the crashed ADC Airline plane in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)... yesterday.

PHOTO: ABAYOMI FAYESE

NIGERIA was once again thrown into deep mourning yesterday as a passenger aircraft belonging to the Aviation Development Company (ADC) crashed shortly after take-off from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

Of the 100 passengers and five crew members on board, only seven persons were reported to

- **Sultan's son, grandson in 'flight of death'**
- **Sultan buried amid tears**
- **Senator Gandi, mother, wife, three kids die**
- **Shehu Shagari loses son, Abdulrahman**
- **Kogi gov's three daughters, four others survive**

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have survived the crash.

The dead included the Sultan of Sokoto and President General of Nigeria's Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido; Sokoto State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Garba Mohammed; two Senators, Sule Yari Gandi and Badamasi Maccido, who was also the Sultan's son and another grandson and four children of the same parents, with surname as Abdurahman.

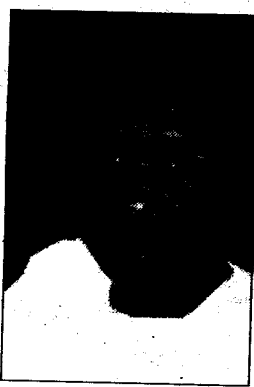
The others included a Manager in Equitorial Trust Bank in Sokoto State, Mr. O.H. Irabor, a son of Second Republic



• **Sultan Maccido**

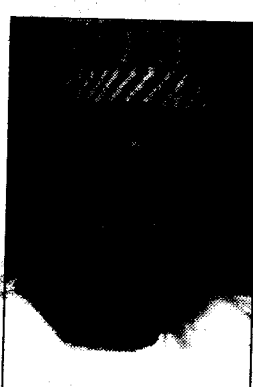
President Shehu Shagari, Abdulrahman; and a Deputy Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Lawal M.A.

For Senator Gandi's family, it was even a tragedy of unbelievable proportions: his mother, his wife and three children were on board and



• **Senator Maccido**

From Martins Oloja and Madu Onuorah (Abuja), Isa Abdulsalami (Jos), Saxone Akhaine (Kaduna) and Eric Meya (Sokoto)



• **Senator Gandi**

died with him.

Three daughters of Kogi State Governor, Ibrahim Idris, survived. So also is another son of the late Badamasi Maccido, as

well as Messrs Bello Jabo and Peter Onuka. The identity of the seventh person was not ascertained as at last night.



• **Alhaji Yaro**

The Kogi governor's daughter's names were given as Jemila, Aisha and Hajiya.

The plane, a Boeing 737, crashed at the Ido, Tunga-Madaki village, just two kilometres from the airport.

Yesterday's mishap came barely a week to

the tenth anniversary of the heart rending crash involving the same ADC airline in Ejirin, Lagos in November 1996. One of the witnesses of the evacuation told *The Guardian* last night that it was a sight too gory to be repeated in a lifetime.

President Olusegun Obasanjo, from his Ota, Ogun State residence, yesterday expressed "deep" and "profound" shock at the incident. He ordered three days of national mourning and a full investigation of the cause of the crash.

Sokoto was thrown into mourning as news of the death of the Sultan and several other prominent citizens of the state was received.

Born in 1926, in Dange town, some 26 kilometres from Sokoto town, Sultan

Maccido was the eldest son of his father, the late 17th Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Siddiq 111.

He became the 19th Sultan of Sokoto in 1996 following the deposition of the 18th Sultan, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki.

He was buried yesterday at Hubbaren Shehu (The tomb of Shehu Usman Danfodio).

The late Sultan's body was flown in a presidential plane to Sokoto for the burial. At the burial were Second Republic President Shehu Shagari, Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa, his Kebbi State counterpart, Adamu Aliero, and Emir of Argungu, Alhaji Samaila Mera.

His remains were airlifted to Sokoto at 6.45 p.m. Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media), Mrs. Oluremi Oyo, said that the President "was in a state of grief." He also sympathised with the bereaved and all Nigerians.

The crash site is located south of the Presidential Wing of the airport and straight from the runway, just before the hills over-

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