

# 30 feared dead as truck rams into Kaduna PDP polls venue

**I**T was a tragedy of unimaginable proportion yesterday at the venue of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship run-off primaries in Kaduna as a trailer rammed into a crowd of party delegates, killing about 30 persons

and injuring many others.

The run-off election was between Senator Isaiah Balat and Alhaji Namadi Sambo.

According to an eyewitness, the incident which occurred at the entrance to the Trade Fair Complex along Kaduna-

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*From Saxone Akhaine,  
Kaduna*

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Zaria highway was allegedly caused when one of the armoured tanks deployed to the area abruptly pulled out from the road leading to the venue of the election.

The witness said the action made the on-coming trailer with registration Yobe XB 487 PKM, to lose control and then veered off into the crowd of party delegates and hawkers.

Several of those severely injured were food

hawkers and other vendors who were immediately rescued by the officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) who rushed the victims to hospitals in the metropolis.

At the scene of the accident, two vehicles and  
*Continued on Page 2*

# 30 feared dead at Kaduna primaries venue

Continued from Page 1

four motorcycles were crushed under the trailer.

An eye-witness pointed out that when the trailer lost control, several delegates of the

PDP were trooping into the venue of the run-off elections.

He noted: "Immediately the trailer lost control when the police armoured tank entered the highway, the trailer rammed into the crowd, some of whom were waiting for vehicles and others that were travelling. Many people died instantly."

Also, some people in commercial vehicles coming from Kafanchan to attend a wedding in Zaria were equally burnt after the accident.

The State Deputy Governor, Mr. Patrick Yakowa, visited some of the victims at the 44 Army Reference Hospital and Saint Gerald Hospitals to commiserate with them.

The FRSC Sector

Commander, Mr. Nseobong Akpabio, spoke on the accident: "We were alerted of the multiple accidents late in the morning." He, however, said that only eight people had been confirmed dead in the hospital.

Said he: "I was made to understand that a trailer, in an attempt to avoid another vehicle that was just pulling out of the Trade Fair Complex, lost control and ran into the parked vehicles and the crowd. In the process, many people were injured."

Akpabio added: "If the trailer driver was not on high speed, definitely he would have avoided the accident", stressing that "in an attempt to avoid one single vehicle, he now ran into so

many people and vehicles".

He, however, urged Nigerians to always give helping hand to victims and condemned the attitudes of some motorists "who refused to assist victims with their cars to convey them to the hospitals because their bodies were covered with blood."

Meanwhile, as the results of the run-off election for the governorship primaries in the state was still being expected, sources alleged, that Governor Ahmed Makarfi invited Balat to his residence and asked him to step down for Sambo.

One of Balat's supporters, who pleaded anonymity, said that the aspirant declined the request of the governor.

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