

## 50 burnt in Nasarawa gas explosion

### •Saraki visits victims

**F**IFTY persons were burnt in yesterday's gas explosion in Lafia, Nasarawa State.

They have been taken to Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH) in Lafia for treatment.

The explosion, which happened about 10 am, was allegedly caused by leakage from Monaco gas station on the premises of Natson petrol station.

An eyewitness, Livingstone Chukwu, said the fire started after gas reached the exhaust of a motorcycle.

He said: "The owner of the gas station escaped before the fire engulfed the petrol and gas stations and burnt every-

From Donatus Nadi, Lafia

one and everything within."

Those who gathered at the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secretariat to welcome Senate President Bukola Saraki ran to safety.

At the casualty unit, burnt bodies were observed. Doctors were battling to save more lives.

Sympathisers thronged to catch a glimpse of victims at the hospital.

Victims were taken to hospital by officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

A sympathiser, Ibrahim Mushasha, said: "Over 50 persons

have been brought into the unit for urgent medication. Most of them were brought in unconscious and naked.

"Some of the victims were caught up in the inferno as they plied the Lafia/Abuja road, especially students of the Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, who were going for lectures, and persons travelling.

The governor and deputy governor's wives; officials of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were on ground to provide succour.

The government has, however, directed the evacuation of victims to the Federal Med-

ical Centre, Keffi, as facilities at DASH were not enough to accommodate them.

Senate President Bukola Saraki visited victims of the explosion.

The ex-governor, who was in the state for consultations, visited Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital in Lafia.

He lamented that the country is losing people who can add value to it.

"As a government and a concerned citizen, we will ensure security of life and property through provision of basic infrastructure and amenities that can forestall such incidents.

### Kwara Speaker for governor

'Saraki plotting to manipulate Kogi PDP delegates list'