

Governors visit Abule-Ado explosion site, donate N200m

•Death toll now 23 as victim dies in hospital

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One of those who sustained injuries during last Sunday's multiple explosions at Abule Ado, a Lagos suburb, has died at the hospital, The Nation learnt yesterday.

The woman, identified as Funke Edet, passed on yesterday evening at the Igboji Orthopedic Hospital where she was transferred after her rescue on Sunday.

Her death has brought to 23, the total number of fatalities from the disaster that left at least 57 persons with varying injuries.

Director General of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu confirmed her death, assuring that the agency would continue to provide update on the incident.

He stated that a revised total of 500 people have been displaced from their homes with 100 of them already accommodated at the relief camp in Igando.

“Our help desk remains manned and personnel remain on hand to manage enquiries and arrange transfer to the relief camp for those rendered homeless by the explosions. We appeal for calm and urge members of the public to keep off the scene and be law abiding,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Governors Forum(NGF) yesterday announced a donation of N200million to the Abule- Ado Soba Relief Fund, to cater for victims of the Abule- Ado explosion.

It is recalled that Lagos State Government had set up a N2billion relief fund in the wake of the gas pipeline explosion which claimed many lives and loss of properties, with initial donation of N250million from the state government into the fund.

While announcing the NGF donation during the on-the-spot assessment of the site yesterday, the chairman, Nigerian Governors Forum, who is also Ekiti State Governor, Kayode Fayemi, accompanied by Kano and Edo states governors, Umar Ganduje and Godwin Obaseki respectively, said the donation was a collective contribution from the NGF, promising each state would further donate to the fund.

He commiserated with the state and commended the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his quick response to the situation.

“The Nigerian Governors Forum saw the need and urgency to have on-the- spot assessment so we can report back to the larger house. Our colleagues wanted us to have a sense of the extent of damages done here.

“I want to thank Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu who brought us here. Our mission is to commiserate with Lagos State Government and people of the state particularly who were affected by this incident. Life is critical to us.

“There is a lot we have learnt about indiscriminate construction of buildings along NNPC pipeline. This is an opportunity to do something about NNPC pipeline across the country,” he said.

“There have been lots of pipeline damages that have resulted in loss of lives. We would make recommendations as NGF on how to tackle this perennial problem.

“Any loss of lives is unfortunate. We thank God it happened on a Sunday. We are aware of the relief fund and have the authority of my colleagues to contribute to it.

“We are contributing N200million to the relief fund. I want to offer our condolences to the lives that have been lost. We pray for avoidance of such incident in the future,” he added.