

# How aggrieved family member set Kano mosque ablaze, killed 15

•Four minors among deceased worshippers as police confirm death toll

**T**HE blast from the mosque sounded like a bomb, but it was not an improvised device or a detonated nuclear weapon. Thirty-eight-year old Shafi'u Abubakar had sprayed the mosque with petrol, locked its doors and ignited a deposited gallon filled with fuel.

Thirty-two persons were in the mosque located in Gezawa Local Government Area of Kano State, observing their early morning prayers on Wednesday when Abubakar set the holy place ablaze.

The culprit had timed and struck as the worshippers were bowing down and praying to Allah (God). They had neither a threat signal nor a premonition of an attack on them. So, with the doors already locked, they could only grope helplessly when the flames of fire and smoke engulfed the mosque.

By the time neighbours and passersby rushed to the scene of the blast, six persons had died; a figure that rose to 15 by yesterday. About 17 others who inhaled large amounts of smoke and sustained serious degrees of burns were hospitalised at Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital.

Some of the other victims are receiving treatment at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. It was difficult speaking to them because of the intensity of their health conditions.

Police spokesperson of the Kano Command, Abdullahi Kiyawa, confirmed the tragic incident to newsmen.

"The suspect said he decided to set the mosque ablaze after he cited family members who were cheating on him praying in the mosque," Kiyawa added.

The dead have been buried.

An eyewitness said among those who lost their lives were six adults, a youth and four minors.

Police have since arrested Shafi'u Abubakar - the man behind the dastardly act. The culprit confessed that he set the mosque ablaze because of "a prolonged family disagreement over sharing of inheritance."

Assistant Inspector General of Police, Umar Sanda, who is in charge of the case, has visited the injured at the hospitals. He confirmed that the incident has nothing to do with terrorism.

"What happened is not associated with any act of terrorism. Rather, it was a skirmish that happened as a result of inheritance distribution."

"The suspect was said not to be satisfied with the distribution and was reacting to that. He is presently with us and is giving out useful information," he said.

According to Sanda, the perpetrator used a locally made bomb to commit the crime.

The Emir of Gaya, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulkadir, on Friday donated N3 million to alleviate the predicaments of the victims. He made the donation during a visit to Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital, Kano, where the injured are receiving treatment.

The monarch said: "Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victims and their families during this difficult time."

"Gaya Emirate will provide all the necessary support to ensure a full and speedy recovery for those who were injured."

He expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased while offering words of comfort to those recuperating from their injuries.

**Police confirm 15 dead**

The Police Command in Kano State yesterday confirmed the death of 15 persons in the mosque attack in Gadan village in Gezawa

By Fanen Ihyongo, Kano

Local Government Area of the state.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that a man on Wednesday allegedly sprayed the mosque with petrol, locked its doors and set it on fire, trapping about 40 worshippers.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr Usaini Gumel, told NAN in a telephone interview that so far, 15 out of the 24 victims of the incident died.

Initial reports said only one worshipper had died from the attack but the death toll later rose after more victims died receiving treatment at

the Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital in Kano.

Gumel said that the incident occurred during a dawn prayer at a mosque in Gadan village, leaving 24 worshippers injured.

He said the injured victims were currently receiving treatment at the Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital, Kano.

NAN reports that the suspect, Shafi'u Abubakar, 38 is currently in police custody.

The motive behind the attack was believed to be a family conflict over the sharing of family inheritance.

The commissioner said that the police are continuing with their investigation into the attack.

## Court recalls first witness in Emefiele's alleged \$4.5 bn fraud

By Adebisi Onanuga and Elizabeth Eze

**J**USTICE Rahman Oshodi of an Ikeja Special Offences Court yesterday granted the request of the defence to recall the first prosecution witness, Monday Osazuwa, in the alleged abuse of office and \$4.5bn fraud case against the former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor Godwin Emefiele.

Kazeem Gbadamosi (SAN), counsel to 2nd defendant, Henry Osime-Omoile, notified the court of a motion on notice dated May 6 and sought the indulgence of the court to recall Osazuwa.

Osazuwa, had on April 12 testified about how the embattled CBN governor, on different occasions, directed him to collect \$3 million cash in tranches.

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) prosecuting counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN), objected to the application.

But the trial Justice Oshodi, granted the application of Gbadamosi to recall the witness.

Ruling on the matter, Justice Oshodi said: "In the motion on notice dated May 6 and filed on May 7, the 2nd defence counsel seeks an order to recall the first prosecution witness (PW1)."

"The 2nd defence counsel seeks to further cross-examine PW1 on matters listed

in paragraph 4D on the affidavit in support of the application.

"The recall was also premised on nine grounds and the six-paragraph affidavit was filed in support of the application and equally is a written address filed on May 7."

"The prosecution did not file a rebuttal and I hereby grant the application."

EFCC counsel then prayed the court for a leave to further examine 4th prosecution witness, a contractor, the Director, Computer Resources Limited, Victor Onyejiuwa, who started his evidence-in-chief on May 9 and the leave was granted by the court.

The witness, in his continuation of his examination-in-chief, told the court that there was an error in his extra judicial statement regarding the location where the \$600,000 was given to the second prosecution witness, a former Director of Information Technology of CBN, John Ayoh.

According to him, the sum of \$400,000 was given to Ayoh in Lagos while \$200,000 was given to him in Abuja.

Under cross-examination by Emefiele's counsel, Olalekan Ojo (SAN), the witness said he wrote the statement in the presence of his lawyer, Olukayode Enitan (SAN).

He said he became aware of the error later.

He confirmed to the court that there were only two errors in his statement and that he was released to his lawyer after he wrote the extra judicial statement.

"Apart from the two errors, there are no other errors in my statement. But there are omissions, because I wrote 2014 to 2018 instead of 2014 to 2020."

"As a businessman of over 20 years of experience, I know I have a civic duty not to give bribe to anybody and I know that I have duties to report anyone that offers bribe."

## Court convicts Lagos cosmetic surgeon over client's death

•Sentenced to one year jail with N100,000 fine option

**A** medical doctor and founder of MedContour Services Ltd., Dr. Anuoluwapo Adepoju, who conducted a failed plastic surgery that resulted in the death of one Nneka Onwuzuligbo in 2020, has been convicted by the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos.

Former Director-General of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Babatunde Irukera, who disclosed this in a tweet yesterday, wrote: "Today is a day of pride for me that I personally prosecuted Anu Adepoju

and her medical practice.

"Though I've left, the case has ended in a conviction strengthening the accountability framework for all in society, professionals or otherwise."

"This is how society should work and grow."

"Dr. Anu Adepoju and her medical practice convicted in all 5 counts charged by FCCPC."

"The wheel of justice may grind slowly, but we must see it through. What we need are enforced with audacity and the will to prosecute competently and diligently."

"Good day for consumers of professional services."

In 2020, the FCCPC had arraigned Adepoju on five counts before Justice Mohammed Liman.

The FCCPC had accused the cosmetic surgeon of shunning summons by the agency to appear and produce a certain document.

