

PLANE CRASH: SULTAN, 103 OTHERS KILLED

From MIKE REIS, ISAIAH ABRAHAM & SALISU IBRAHIM,
Abuja

BARELY a month after the plane crash that occurred in Benue State which claimed lives of 13 Generals of the Nigerian Army and other officers, another plane crash involving an ADC Airline occurred yesterday at the Abuja International Wing of Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, killing nearly all persons on board, including Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido.

Also on board the ill-fated aircraft were Deputy Governor of Sokoto State Alhaji Garba Muhammad, two senators from Sokoto State, son of the Sultan Badamasi Maccido, and Sule Yari Gandi, his wife and his children, a serving Commissioner for Education Dr Sanusi Junaid and a PDP gubernatorial aspirant, Alhaji Yaro Bodinga, son of former President Shehu Shagari, Alhaji Abdulrahman Shagari,

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Bafarawa broadcasts to people of Sokoto
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The late Sultan

From ISMAIL MUDASHIR & ABUBAKAR IMAM, Kaduna

ALHAJI Muhammadu Maccido Abubakar III was appointed the 19th Sultan of Sokoto on Sunday, April 21, 1996. He succeeded Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki.

He was born in 1926 at Dange, Sokoto State and attended elementary school in Dange from 1936, Sokoto Middle School between 1939 and 1947, and Clerical Training College, Zaria from 1947 to 1948. The Sultan also attended Katsina Teachers College before taking up appointment with the Sokoto Native Authority in 1949.

He was appointed Sarkin Kudu and District Head of Mafara in 1953 and member of the Sokoto Native Authority

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Wreckage of the plane at Tungan Madaki village, Abuja... yesterday.

Sultan Maccido buried at Hubbaren Shehu

From MUSA LEMU, KABIR WURMA, Sokoto; ISMAIL MUDASHIR & ABUBAKAR IMAM, Kaduna

THE remains of the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido Abubakar III, who died in yes-

terday's ADC plan crash in Abuja, have been buried amidst tears and grief.

Maccido was buried yesterday evening at Hubbaren Shehu, Sokoto, where the legendary Sheikh Usman Danfodio was interred two cen-

turies ago.

His remains were first flown to Sokoto at 5.30 pm and taken straight to his Kanwuri Palace, where the Muslim ritual rites were performed for the repose of his soul.

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...6 farmers also killed

SIX farmers tilling the soil were also killed in Abuja yesterday when the ADC aircraft crashed.

Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Dr Ade Abolurin, told newsmen in Abuja yesterday that the farmers met their death alongside 97 persons that were on board the aircraft.

"There were six farmers-

dead at the site and they were working with hoes and cutlasses," he said.

Search and rescue operations by his men were swift because they had been well-trained, he added.

"They created a path to the site before heavy duty trucks

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Obasanjo, Atiku, Bafarawa express shock

From HUSSAINI TUKUR, Abuja & MUSA LEMU, Sokoto

PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice-President Atiku Abubakar have expressed shock and sadness over yesterday's ADC plane crash in which Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido and several other prominent Sokoto citizens were killed, just as Sokoto State Governor Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa urged people of the state to take the incident as an act of God.

Obasanjo said in a statement by Senior Special Assistant to

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News

Sultan, 103 others

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who was aspiring to contest the 2007 election to represent his constituency at the House of Representatives.

It was learnt that 105 people were on board the aircraft made up of 100 passengers and five crew members. The plane was said to have arrived in Abuja from Lagos enroute Sokoto and crashed immediately after take-off at the west wing of the airport in Abuja just before noon.

When our reporters arrived in the airport shortly after the crash, rescue operations were in top gear as fighters were sighted trying to put out the fire while ambulances from the National Hospital were seen hurrying to and from the scene of the crash conveying survivors to the National and Maitama Hospitals, where the dead were conveyed to the morgue.

Other rescue teams fully mobilised were the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the Police, who were seen carry-

ing out various rescue operations.

The immediate cause of the crash was not known at press time, but it was gathered that the plane hardly took off from ground before the crash.

The number of casualties and names of those on board were officially released by the management of the ill-fated plane and delegates to the Presidential Forum on Education from Sokoto state which held at the Banquet Hall of the State House on Saturday were on board.

Early arrivals at the scene of the incident included the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Sunday Ehindero, Director-General of the State Security Service (SSS) Col. Kayode Are, Minister of Federal Capital Territory Malam Nasir El-Rufai, Minister of State for Works Alhaji Yahaya Abdulkarim, Zamfara State Governor Alhaji Ahmad Sani, among others.

When *New Nigerian* visited the National Hospital yesterday, some of the survivors were seen being attended to while charred bodies were being deposited at the mortuary.

The survivors, who were in pains, could hardly speak to the press.

The late Sultan

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three years later.

Alhaji Maccido had served as commissioner in the ministries of Health, Agriculture and Cooperatives in the then North-Western State.

Versed in Islamic scholarship like his father, Alhaji Maccido had restricted his role to the pursuit of Islamic knowledge and poetry, and served as a member of the caretaker committee that saw to the proper functions of the office of the Sultan when the late Sultan Abubakar III's failing health was impairing his duties.

The deceased was honoured with the Member of the Federal Republic (MFR) in 1965. Prior to his appointment as the Sultan of Sokoto in April 1996, the late Sultan served as patron to many religious and edu-

Sultan Maccido buried

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Thousands of people attended the two raka'at congregational funeral prayer at the palace and the final burial at the *Hubbare*, where Maccido's son and grandson who were also killed in the crash were equally buried.

The funeral prayer, which was initially scheduled to take place at Sultan Bello Mosque, opposite the palace, could not hold because of the large crowd of sympathizers. It had to take place inside the palace to control the crowd.

There was also a large crowd

6 farmers

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arrived at the scene," he said.

Abolurin said 100 men from the corps were drafted to the scene "only a few minutes after the crash."

cational bodies, including the Sokoto Education Authority, Catering Rest House management committee and Manager, Nizamyya School Sokoto.

He was also the Presidential Liaison Officer to President Shehu Shagari in the second republic and had similarly served on various boards at federal and state levels.

Maccido was, until his death, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the governing board of the University of Abuja and President-General of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

The late Sultan's last public outing was his attendance of the Presidential Education Forum called by President Olusegun Obasanjo to look at reforms in the nation's education sector

of sympathizers from the palace to the *Hubbare* that took nearly an hour for those conveying the corpses to arrive at the burial site, the residence of the legendary Islamic revivalist.

Malam Muhammadu Bello Agwara, the Chief Imam of Sokoto, led the funeral prayer at the palace and the prayers said after final burial of the Sultan.

Among the personalities that attended the burial were former Nigeria's President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Sokoto State Governor Alhaji Attahiru Dalhau Bafarawa and his Kebbi State counterpart, Alhaji Muhammadu Adamu Aliero, the Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari, the emirs of Argungu and Bakura, kingmakers of the Caliphate, traditional rulers and many religious leaders.

MANIFEST RELEASED

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- Jeyibo Esther Miss
- Moshi R. Dr.
- Ogunleye O.O. Mr.
- Isong A.O. Mr.
- Mubor N. Mrs.
- Nakijwa K. Mr.
- Osawe D.E. Mr.
- Aretiya Esene Mrs.
- Bob-Manuel I. Dr.
- Oyarorisa A.O. Mr.
- Abdurahaman R. (child 6 yrs)
- Abdurahaman S. (child 8 yrs)
- Abdurahaman N. (child 5 yrs)
- Abdurahaman B. (child 11 yrs)
- Onwuegbu C. Miss
- Oyeniyi A.O. Mr.
- Mukhtar B.M.
- Momodu M.E. Mr.
- Ojo A.O. Mr.
- Usman M Alh.
- Irabor O.H. Mr.

- Lawal M.A. Mr.
- Uzomba G.O. Mr.
- Aduki S.A. Mr.
- Ola R. Dr.
- Egwu P. Ms.
- Garba R. Mrs.
- Nwaorgu E. Mr.
- Maciver T. Mr.
- Maciver R. Mr.
- Isiwale J. Mr.
- Akin John I.
- Toluchi C. Mrs.
- Haruna Aya Dr.
- Ayemoba J. Mrs.
- Enyinaya E.U. Dr.
- Mustafa F. Haj
- Mustafa H. Miss
- Balogun T.A. Mr.
- Sabo Odili Mr.
- Barayo Boyi Alhaji
- Ibrahim S. Alhaji
- Alexendar N. Mr.
- Ige Umaru Hajia
- Yari Gandi Mrs.
- Shagari A.S. Mr.
- Arzika B. (infant)
- Amoda K.E.
- Ahmed F.D. Mrs.
- Dan Musa L. Mrs.
- Nwaeze C.O. Sir

- Bayero A. Mr.
- Uaisu Yarq Alhaji
- Ahmed Danbaba
- Bello Sule
- Yahaya M.B.
- Maccido Umar (child)
- Ibrahim Zainab
- Dangan Umar Amina
- Bello Mabarak (child)
- Muhammadu A. (child)
- Yahaya M.K. Mr.
- Kware Bello Mr.
- Nasir Ibrahim Yabo
- Kwatwa P. Mr.
- Suleiman Ismaila Mr.
- Okoye B.C.C. Dr.
- Saidu S. Mr.
- Hanafi A.S. Mr.
- Olaniyi A.O. Mr.
- Hassan K. Hon.
- Alabi T.
- Nnamdi O. Mr.
- Bello L. Mr.
- Junaidu S.U. Dr.
- Kangiwa S. Mrs.

- Haggard D.P. Dr. (Miss)
- Tsadu M.K. Mrs.
- Musa A.S. Mr.
- Arzika H. Mrs.
- Umar A. Miss
- Suleiman I.K. Mr.
- Jabonura Mr.
- Zarau Umar J. Miss
- Azaki Rukiyat Haj
- Danke U.B. Alh.
- Dan Musa
- Shamaki F.
- Ibrahim Jemila Miss
- Kardi Ana Hajia

CREW MEMBERS:

- Atanda Kolawole Capt
- Okonneh Celestine F/O
- Kanu Christian Mr.
- Onuke Peter Mr.
- Nwugbuna Ngozi Miss

Bafarawa broadcasts to people of Sokoto

Sokoto State Governor Alhaji Attahiru Dalhau Bafarawa's broadcast speech to the people of the state on yesterday's ADC crash at Tungan Madaki, Gwagwalada, Abuja. The broadcast was made in Hausa and below is the translated version:

Inna lillahi wa innah ilaihi raji'un.

My fellow people of Sokoto State.

Assalamu Alaikum.

Based on the reports we just received, there was an air crash involving a Sokoto-bound ADC flight soon after take-off.

On board the plane were mostly prominent Sokoto people, including His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido Abubakar II, Sokoto State Deputy Governor Alhaji Garba Muhammad,

Senator Sule Yari Gandi, Senator Badamasi Maccido, Sokoto State Commissioner for Education Dr. Sanusi Usman Junaid and many others.

"Inna lillahi wa innah ilaihi raji'un. As Muslims, there is nothing we can do other than to remember that both life and death are in God's hands. There is no doubt that this is a tragedy and that as Muslims, we should take it as an act of God.

We pray to Almighty God to grant eternal rest to all those who lost their lives and to grant all of us the fortitude to bear the pain of the tragedy.

As a result of this, the Sokoto State Government

has now declared from today, Sunday, October 29, 2006 up to Friday a public holiday for mourning the souls of the deceased. We hereby call on people of the state to use the opportunity to pray to God for the re-

Air travel continues

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the local wing of the airport where the aircraft took off. The Sultan of Sokoto, the Deputy Governor of Sokoto State, some top government officials and two senators perished in the crash.

Only four people, now on admission at the National Hospital, were believed to have survived the crash though rescue operations were still on at the time of this report.

everything in God's hands. "There is no doubt that this is a tragedy and that we should take it as an act of God," he said.

Bafarawa prayed to God to grant all those who died in the crash eternal rest, and also grant all the bereaved the fortitude to bear the loss.

The governor also declared from yesterday to Friday a public holiday to mourn and pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

According to him, the state government will make public full details of the incident as soon as investigations into the crash are concluded.

pose of the souls of the deceased.

The state government will make public full details on the incident as soon as all the necessary investigations on the crash are completed.

May God grant us the fortitude to bear the big loss: *Wassalamu Alaikum.*

Some passengers at the airport, who spoke with *New Nigerian*, expressed shock at the crash but said that could not deter them from embarking on their journey.

A passenger, who did not want his name mentioned, said air crash is becoming too often and urged government to look into this particular crash and in the recent past with a view to finding a lasting solution to air crash disaster in the country.

"The way planes go down in this country is totally unacceptable. It is sad that each time you board a plane now you are not at ease until you disembark from the plane at your destination. Something has to be done," he said.

Our reporters, who were at the airport, saw Virgin Nigeria, Euro Airline and a presidential jet landed and took off differently.

Authorities at the airport, who could not give immediate reason for the crash of the ADC airline, said the incident would not affect normal airport operations as the crash did not obstruct the runways of the airport.

Obasanjo, Atiku, Bafarawa

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the President on Media Mrs. Oluremi Oyo that he was in a state of grief over the reported crash.

The president, who ordered for a full report of the incident to be made to him immediately, also declared a three-day national mourning for Nigerians to pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased.

"As I said, he (president) is profoundly saddened and he concedes with all Nigerians because all of us are touched when this kind of thing happens," the statement said.

In his condolence message

issued in Abuja yesterday, Vice-President Atiku described the incidence as unfortunate, shocking and a calamity not only to the people of Sokoto Caliphate, but also the nation at large.

He prayed to God for the repose of the souls of the deceased and grant them *Aljanna Firdausi*.

Sokoto State Governor Alhaji Bafarawa in a broadcast to the people of the state yesterday urged all Sokoto citizens to take the incident as an act of God.

He said as Muslims there was nothing one could do over the incident other than to leave