

11 perish in multiple road mishap

From ABDULGAFAR ALABELEWE, Kaduna

NO fewer than 11 persons, including some delegates to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship run-off primary election between Senator Isaiah Balat and Architect Namadi Sambo were yesterday confirmed dead and 17 others seriously injured in a road accident at the Kaduna International Trade Fair Complex, Kaduna on Kaduna-Kano Expressway.

The accident, which also left seven vehicles damaged, occurred around 11 a.m. at the Expressway where policemen were screening the delegates at the entrance to the trade fair complex, venue of the run-off.

New Nigerian gathered that a vehicle, which conveyed policemen to the venue of the election was reversing, while a trailer, DAF 2800 with plate number, Yobe XB

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11 perish

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487 KM from Kaduna lost control following brake failure and hit the parked vehicles belonging to the delegates.

An eye witness, who escaped the accident, Miss Joy Bodunde who was selling recharge cards at the time of the accident said the trailer caught fire as soon as it hit a vehicle.

Among the affected vehicles were two Mercedes Benz 190E with plate number AY 51 MKA and CM 174 ABJ, a Golf Saloon car with plate number GE 87 AAA, Mitsubishi Saloon car AE 505 KAR and two 504 station wagon cars with a plate number AG 623 ZAR and the other without number.

The other vehicle apart from the trailer that was involved in the accident was a 10 seater commercial bus, which was said to be conveying passengers to Zaria.

New Nigerian gathered that victims of the accident included some delegates who were yet to gain entrance to the complex as well as vendors of date (Dabino), recharge card and the likes.

When our correspondent visited some hospitals, where the victims were taken to, it was discovered that the survivors were not being given adequate treatment while the dead were deposited in the mortuary.

At Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital, seven burnt corpses among them were two children were dumped on the floor of mortuary, while the officers in charge of the unit declined comment.

He, however, confirmed the number of the dead brought to the hospital from the scene of the accident.

Also at Nigerian Army Reference Hospital, the acting head of department of accident and emergency unit, Dr. Ibrahim Mijinyawa told *New Nigerian* that 17 survivors were brought to the hospital and that one of them died while receiving treatment.

He said 16 others were injured but that two of them with minor injuries were treated and

discharged, while five were in critical condition with slim chances of survival.

At St. Gerald Catholic Hospital, three victims were seen responding to treatment.

The compound sister of the hospital's Emergency and Accident Unit, Sister Grace while speaking to our correspondent, expressed optimism that they would survive.

Speaking to *New Nigerian* at the Army Reference Hospital on a condolence visit to victims of the accident, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Malam Nasir El-Rufai prayed for their quick recovery.

The minister was in company of the Minister of Finance, Mrs. Nenadi Usman, Special Adviser to the President on Public Affairs, Malam Uba Sani and Alhaji Suleiman Hunkuyi.

Gombe

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Mohammed Danjuma Goje said the budget was made up of 17.117 billion Naira recurrent expenditure and 20.3 billion Naira capital expenditure.

He said under the capital expenses of the budget, which is focused on realising the GOMSEEDS goals through the implementation of development projects and programmes that have direct bearings on the lives of people of the state, the economic sector got the highest allocation of 13 billion Naira, social sector got 3.6 billion Naira while regional sector was allocated a little above three billion Naira.

The general administration got 1.5 billion Naira, he said.

Goje said under the recurrent expenditure, overhead cost got the highest allocation of 7.8 billion Naira, while the personnel cost was allocated 5.05 billion Naira.

On educational development, Governor Goje disclosed that government would put all efforts on the successful take off of the recently established 77 junior secondary schools, and that priority attention would