

Boko Haram: 500 PERSONS

From Abubakar A. Baba,
Maiduguri

IT is believed that about 500 people are so far known to have been killed in the recent battle between security forces and members of the Yusufiyya sect in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital recently.

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff announced the figure in Maiduguri during a meeting with a delegation from the state chapter of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

He said the final figure of the dead which was being excepted from security agencies and religious bodies, would be incorporated in his report to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

He said two bodies will soon



GOV. MODI SHERIFF
of Borno State

KILLED IN MAIDUGURI

be set up to regulate the activities of Christian and Muslim clergy to forestall the reoccurrence of the just ended standoff in the state.

The governor frowned at what he termed as negative publications about the crisis, and urged people needing to write about the incident to visit Maiduguri, rather than sit down in far away places to produce inciting publications.

The governor sympathized with all the people who have lost their kith and kin as well as their property in the four-day chaos and appealed for patience and understanding.

In his response, Reverend Enoch Atiyaye of the Chapel of Grace praised the efforts taken to douse the situation, but called for constant vigilance to forestall future occurrence.

Meanwhile, the committee set up by the Borno State government to assess the damages and loss of lives caused by the recent crisis in the state capital says it has so far registered about two 2,000 victims.

The chairman of the committee, Dr. Bulama Mali Gubio while explaining their findings to the Shehu of Borno said a greater percentage of the

victims were women and children made widows and orphans. He said assessment of property destroyed was still being collated and that they would be made public after a comprehensive aggregate had been compiled.

Corruption retards progress, Shema says

From SULAIMAN
AHMED MISAU, Katsina
KATSINA State Governor,
Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Shema
has observed that corruption
retards all forms of progress in
the society.

Governor Ibrahim Shema was speaking during the unveiling of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Local Government Integrity Initiative Logo and Presentation of Vehicle and Computers held at the state Secretariat Conference Hall, Katsina.

He noted that fighting corruption is a collaborative effort to achieve the desired objective.

The governor called for safeguarding of state resources to advance the various sectors of life, saying that the integrity initiative has opened a new challenge to those in the art of

Dr. Gubio who is also the chairman of the Nigerian Red Cross said elder statesman, Dr. Shettima Ali Monguno had donated relief materials worth two million Naira for distribution to the victims identified.

Responding, the *Shehu* of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Garbai Elkanemi urged members of the committee to sift through the entire town to identify all the losses incurred and give recommendation that could heal the wounds of the victims.

governance in this country.

Alhaji Ibrahim Shema said the initiative would entrench the culture of integrity in the minds of those in leadership position.

Speaking on President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's Seven-Point Agenda, Governor Ibrahim Shema said it was the vision of Yar'Adua to establish a direction for his administration.

He noted that the Seven-Point Agenda was not an overnight affair as Nigerians must work to achieve the objective of developing this country.

The governor said future governments must remain steadfast to become one of the top 20-20-20 countries, saying President Yar'Adua has started laying the foundation for development in this country.

conditioning sets and other office equipment for the take-off of the Kano Zonal ICPC office.

In a remark, the chairman of ICPC, Retired Justice Emmanuel Ayoola said the local government integrity initiative seeks to evolve standards and mechanisms for an effective and transparency framework at local government level.

Justice Emmanuel Ayoola announced the nomination of Governor Ibrahim Shema to serve as an honorary consultant to the local government integrity initiative for the useful advices he earlier gave to the commission.

Also in a welcome address, the Secretary of ICPC, Alhaji Haliru Aliyu Tambuwal noted that no nation can fight corruption effectively without the traditional will of its people.