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📅 16.Apr.2014 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | 👤 Soji-eze Fagbemi, Chris Agbamu, Gbola Subair, Chrisitan Okeke And Kolawole Daniel



The Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu, disclosed on Tuesday that two of the bomb blast victims who were brought to Maitama District Hospital, Abuja after the incident died of severe injuries, shortly after they were brought in.

The minister, who was speaking when he visited the victims of the blast in hospitals also stated that many of the victims still required surgery, while some lucky ones among them whose conditions were no longer critical and were medically stable might be discharged later yesterday or in a few

days time.

However, Prof. Chukwu expressed satisfaction at the high level of response by Nigerians and foreigners to the call by the government for people to donate blood and offer other assistance to the victims.

He said: “27 persons were brought here alive, although two who were seriously injured with severe head injuries died minutes after they arrived here. Some others had to be transferred to other hospitals and they are doing well in those hospitals.

“Those that are still here, 14 of them, I have gone round, I have seen all of them, they are all doing very well. I believe some of them will even be discharged to go home today. Those who can’t be discharged home today, in a few days, they should be able to go home. It is only a very few of them who will require to stay more than a week here. So they are all doing well and we are all happy about that.

“Among those who were still breathing when they were brought here, two died within minutes because they have very severe head injuries and so they didn’t stay much long enough for much to be done,” he said.

He stated that apart from many Nigerians, foreigners, especially members of British High Commission came to donate blood.

Meanwhile, due to inability of most relatives of the dead victims in the bomb blast to identify their relations, the Federal Government has said it was going to carry out a DNA test on the corpses for easy identification.

Director-General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Alhaji Mohammed Sani Sidi, stated this on Tuesday while giving an update on the bomb blast.

According to NEMA boss, the relations of some of the deceased victims had come forward to claim their corpses while many others could not be identified.

To ensure that the corpses are claimed from the various morgues where they were deposited, Alhaji Sidi said DNA test would be carried on the corpses without wasting time.

Alhaji Sani-Sidi also disclosed that the Federal Government would pick up the hospital bills of the victims.

While maintaining that the Federal Government would foot the hospital bills of the victims, he said, “we wish to assure everyone of the full compliance with the Federal Government’s directive on the medical treatment of the injured persons.”

Meanwhile, the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Abdulwaheed Omar, the President of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), Comrade Bobboi Kaigama and the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Chief Emeka Wogu, on Tuesday, wept for Nigerian workers, who lost their lives and those who were critically injured.

Comrades Omar, Kaigama and Chief Wogu had visited the victims at the Asokoro District Hospital, Maitama District Hospital, the National Hospital, Abuja and the scene of the bomb blast at different times.

Chief Wogu described the incident as pathetic and an act of lawlessness, saying, “It is pathetic. You can see the level of damage caused by this act of lawlessness, this criminality by certain people who are Nigerians against Nigerians.”



The minister further said: “It is so unfortunate that I can only say may God grant the families of the deceased persons the fortitude to bear the loss; and for the ones who survived this unfortunate incident yesterday. We have gone from hospital to hospital to visit them, particularly the Nigerian workers both in the public and private sector. We wish them quick recovery.

To Comrade Omar, “this is a national disaster and very unfortunate because it happened at rush hours. Majority of the victims are workers and petty traders. This is a very serious issue.

“We were analysing why the choice of this place. Definitely, we are highly devastated and we feel that government has to also immediately overhaul the security system.

“I think something is really wrong. It is high time we started doing something different to improve arms of security because Nigerians cannot afford to continue to lose people in this magnitude.”

The TUC President said: “Let’s not sleep on issues related to our security. Entrances to Abuja are not more than five. What stops us, the government from installing scanning machines in these five locations?”

According to him, this would help detect anybody including terrorists who would carry anything to the environment.

In a related development, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), M.D. Abubakar, has urged all Nigerians to rise in unity and firmly stand their ground against terrorism.

Speaking on the terrorist attack in Abuja the IGP stated that such occasion called for a united fight against the common enemies of our land.

He charged the citizenry to shed all political, ethnic, religious or sectional leanings and rally round the national flag at this trying moment, by remaining vigilant and cooperating with security agencies in their bid to stamp out terrorism.

He warned against all forms of divisive, inflammatory and provocative statements which are capable of heating up the polity and

distracting investigators.

The IGP encouraged all country men and women to supply relevant information to the Police and other security agencies as they were not only bent on tracking down the perpetrators of the heinous crime, but also taking stronger measures to review current security strategies and strengthen the safety of life and property in all parts of the country.



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