

Two killed as fire guts Canadian Embassy in Abuja

Tinubu promises support for victims

From Kazeem Biriowo and Leon Usigbe with Agency report

THE Federal Capital Territory Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), on Monday confirmed that a diesel tank explosion was responsible for the fire that gutted a section of the Canadian High Commission in Abuja, killing two persons and in-

juring two others.

Head of Public Affairs of FEMA, Mrs Nkechi Isa, disclosed this in a statement.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, Isa said that the diesel tank exploded around 10:45 a.m. in the generator house of the High Commission just as two power generating sets were being serviced by a five-man team from JMD company.

The statement read: "One

of the generators was said to be working, while the other one was being serviced when a tank containing 2,000 litres of diesel in the generator house exploded. Two of the personnel servicing the generator died from the explosion, while two others survived with severe burns and were taken to the Trauma Centre at the National Hospital, Abuja."

Isa added that the FCT Fire

Service was able to contain the fire around 12.30 p.m. while ambulances from the Ministry of Defence, Federal Fire Service, FEMA were on standby.

Reacting to the development, the acting Director-General, FEMA, Mr Mohammed Sabo, called for caution while handling petroleum products, particularly with the onset of the dry season.

Staff who ran out of the

embassy for refuge outside the gates informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that fire fighting trucks moved in to put out the flames while rescue operations were intensified.

Meanwhile, President Bola Tinubu has sympathised with the Canadian government, diplomatic community, and all persons affected by a fire incident.

According to a statement issued on Monday by Ajuri

Ngelale, Special Adviser to the President (Media & Publicity), Tinubu assured the Canadian authorities of the full support of the Nigerian government in the aid of diplomatic and local staff of the High Commission who were particularly affected by the incident.

He prayed for the repose of the departed souls and wishes all injured persons a rapid and full recovery.