

METRO

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Four women killed in Bauchi Zakaat collection stampede

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BAUCHI State police command has confirmed that four women were killed during a stampede that occurred at the venue of the distribution of Zakaat by a Bauchi-based philanthropist.

The crowd, largely women, had gathered at the Jos Road headquarters of the organisation as early as 7:00a.m. on Sunday for the distribution of the Zakaat items.

It was reliably gathered that the exercise started smoothly as beneficiaries were called in groups to receive the items

until the others became restless and apprehensive, leading to struggle to get into the venue premises.

In the process, a stampede ensued as the women tried to force themselves inside.

Those marched upon were rushed to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University

Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), or medical attention, where four were confirmed dead.

Spokesperson for the state police command, Ahmed Wakili, said the command received a distress call from ATBUTH on the people being rushed there for medical attention.

He said: "On receiving the distress call, the Commissioner of Police, Auwal Musa Mohammed, immediately mobilised personnel to the scene of the distribution.

"On getting to the scene, the police joined in the rescue operations and cordoned off the area in order to pre-

vent further casualties, while the exercise was stopped."

He added that, "the victims were rushed to ATBUTH unconscious after which a doctor confirmed that four of them had died, while others, including a 17-year-old girl, are currently receiving treatment at the hospital."

17-year-old who stabbed