

Eid-El-Maulud: 35 die in road accident in Kaduna

As governors felicitate Muslims

From Muhammad Sabiu, Kehinde Akintola, Alphonso Agborh and Saheed Salawu

NO fewer than 35 Muslims on their way to celebrate this year's Eid-El-Maulud in Saminaka in Lere local government area of Kaduna State, died in an auto accident.

Sources said the vehicle conveying them, a J5 bus collided with an articulated vehicle.

Although the authorities are yet to react to the incident, one of the organisers of the Maulud celebration, Malam Abdullahi, told newsmen in an interview on Monday that the accident had disorganised their earlier plans to celebrate the Maulud.

He said 35 people died as a result of the accident, while about 30 injured people were moved to a medical facility in nearby Plateau State, where they were currently receiving treatment.

He said another vehicle on their entourage also collided with a motorbike, leaving some of the occupants dead and others sustaining injuries.

"I did the head count, there were about 70 people; including women and children. It was a sad development. We've taken the injured to JUTH in Jos for medical attention," he said.

Meanwhile, governors have charged Muslims on peaceful co-existence, urging them to use the Maulud celebration to pray for the country.

Governor Abiodun urges peaceful co-existence among religious groups

Ogun State governor, Dapo Abiodun, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Lekan Adeniran, said the festival serves as a reminder of the values of love, compassion, and tolerance that are essential for harmonious living in a country as diverse as Nigeria.

The governor expressed the hope that this celebration will inspire all citizens to embrace the principles of peace and understanding, fostering a culture of respect among various religious groups in the state.

He emphasised that the strength of Ogun State lies in its diversity, urging citizens to come together to promote a peaceful co-existence that transcends religious boundaries.

"It is imperative that we continue to build bridges of understanding and friendship among our different faiths, ensuring that Ogun State remains a beacon of peace and unity," he stated.

Focus on promoting common good - Governor Adeleke

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State charged Muslim Ummah in the state to embrace the essence of the birth of the holy Prophet of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), which is the good of all mankind.

Governor Adeleke, who congratulates Muslims in the state and beyond for the symbolic moment

that the birth of Prophet Muhammad signifies, reminded them to take cognisance of the noble example of peace and hope that the holy prophet reflects.

While emphasising strict adherence to the message of compassion and kindness that the life and teaching of Prophet Muhammad embodied, Adeleke noted that his government remains committed to initiatives and interventions that will lessen the pains of the moment and ensures a better tomorrow.

"Prophet Muhammad was a blessing of our Allah to mankind, as he not only lightens our journey on earth but also serves as an assurance of a better place in the afterlife. As we celebrate the blessing that his birth serves on humanity, I urge us all to embrace his draw from his timeless wisdom in building a just and harmonious society," he added.

Musawa calls for support for flood victims

The Minister of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy, Mrs Hannatu Musawa, while extending felicitations to muslim faithful across Nigeria, urges Muslims to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet, emphasising love, compassion, and unity.

Musawa also expressed sympathy to the people of Borno State, affected by the recent floods as well as the tragic loss of lives, following a boat accident and floods in Zamfara State.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have

lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in Borno and Zamfara states. We call on Nigerians to support the relief efforts and demonstrate the true spirit of unity and solidarity," she added.

Pray for peace, prosperity in Nigeria, Oborevwoori charges Muslims

Governor Sheriff Oborevwoori of Delta State has urged Muslims in the country to use the occasion of the celebration to pray for the peace and prosperity of the country.

In a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Festus Ahon, the governor said the country was in dire strait which requires the sincere prayers of all citizens to overcome the economic and security challenges currently bedeviling it.

While congratulating Muslims, Oborevwoori urged those in the state and other parts of the country to emulate the exemplary leadership of the Holy Prophet by promoting peaceful existence anywhere they live.

Oborevwoori said: "Let us remember to pray sincerely for our country to attain greater harmony and ad-

vancement among our fellow citizens, regardless of their origin or religion, and to foster a stronger dedication to the peace, unity, and stability of the country."

Nigerians enduring severe hardships, FG's reforms taking too long to bear fruits —Muslim youths

THE National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations (NACOMYO) has lamented that Nigerians are enduring protracted debilitating social and economic conditions, due to the multiple reforms of the Federal Government.

It expressed concern over the amount of time it is taking the government reforms to start bearing fruits for the citizens.

In a statement signed by National President, Alhaji Sani Maigoro and National Secretary General, Alhaji Mas'ud Akintola, which was made available to the Nigerian Tribune on Monday in Abuja, the apex Muslim youth organisation noted the inflationary impact of the devaluation of the naira on commodities, stressing that "the ensuing economic instability is exacerbating hardships" that are "be-

coming too much for most citizens."

In the statement, the organisation felicitated Muslim youths in particular and Nigerians in general on this year's Maulud Nabiyy and called on all to imbibe the Prophet's qualities so that the ship of the nation could be steered away "from the crass leadership deficit prevalent at virtually all levels of governance in the country today."

It also called for restraint and global best practices in the process leading to the conduct of the forthcoming off-season governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states.

The council expressed concern over what it called the inflammatory comments of the key stakeholders, especially in Edo State, and advised that the elections be not made a do-or-die affair.

The organisation urged increased level of political engagement among Muslim youths and emphasised the importance of participating in the forthcoming elections to empower the right candidates for the implementation of good policies that will better the lot of the citizenry.

FG set to exploit \$7tn Halal market

Targets \$1.5bn GDP through strategic initiatives by 2027

Leon Usigbe | Abuja

AS part of efforts to diversify the economy, the Federal Government is set to launch a comprehensive strategy to position the country as a leading player in the Halal

"By increasing our Halal exports and focusing on strategic import substitution, we project an addition of nearly \$1.5 billion to our GDP by 2027," Sheriff said.

Sheriff added that strategic focus on the Halal economy opens up new avenues for Nigerian businesses to compete on the global stage.