

# Tragedy after PDP rally: 10 feared killed in auto crash

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**N**O fewer than 10 persons were feared dead as a result of an accident along Wudil-Gaya road, Kano on Friday night.

The victims were returning from Dutse, Jigawa State after attending the Peoples Democratic Party rally.

The state governor, Alhaji Saminu Turaki, led his entire cabinet to formally declare for the PDP at the rally.

An eye witness, Malam Umaru Shuaibu, said the ac-

cident occurred when two mini buses collided. He said, "We had to force the vehicles open to remove some of the victims. Some died on the spot while those seriously injured were rushed to Gaya General Hospital."

He said the remains of the deceased were also taken to the hospital by good Samaritans. Other witnesses said the accident, which occurred at 9pm on Friday night, caused a major traffic hold up which lasted for over one hour.

Most of the victims hail from Kura Local Government area of Kano State. A leading member of PDP in Kano State, Senator Isa Katchaco, who arrived at the scene, a few minutes after the incident, described the accident as horrible.

Attempts to reach the state police command spokesman, Baba Mohammed, a deputy superintendent of police on the issue were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, Turaki on Friday, indicated interest in the nation's top job. He made his position known while responding to an appeal by his supporters at a rally in Kano.

He said he agreed with those who were calling on him to contest for the presidency based on his performance as governor. Turaki prayed to God to liberate all those who were still in political darkness.

In another development,

about now should be the emergence of a widely acceptable successor to Obasanjo.

"I think there is need for us to take a look at things. One is that we have already reached a stage in this country when the co-existence of this nation cannot be compromised. There must continue to be a Nigeria and if there has to be a Nigeria, the

**Continued on Page 7**

**Continued on Page 7**

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**Continued from Page 6**

the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party [PDP], Senator Ahmadu Ali, has revealed plans by the party to over run the North-West in 2007.

Ali made the revelation in an interview with newsmen in Dutse, on Friday.

He said the defection of the Jigawa State Governor, Alhaji Saminu Turaki, his entire cabinet as well as 27 local government council chairmen, 29 members of the state House of Assembly, two out of three Senators, and all but three House of Representatives members, was just the beginning.

He said, "There is a plan for us to win the whole of the North-West and by the grace of God, we will succeed. We thank Mr. President for the work he is doing in this state and we are asking him to increase the tempo so that we will enjoy greater support."

He said that the crisis in the party was a creation of the media.

"There is no crisis in our party! It is you people in the media that are over blowing it. There are a few disgrun-

tled elements (within the party, who instead of writing petitions, go to the media."

While handing over the party flag to Governor Turaki, said, the PDP was delighted to welcome the entire state into the PDP family, adding that it was a sign of good things to come. He enjoined all to work assiduously in the interest of the party.

Earlier, a former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Sule Lamido, had described most of the new entrants as his "political children" and that they had only returned home.

In his remarks, Turaki said, he led others to join the party in the overall interest of the people of the state and the nation in general. He noted that the All Nigeria Peoples Party [ANPP] was in shambles because of internal wranglings.

Turaki expressed the opinion that the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), founded by the Sokoto State governor and Lt. Gen Jeremiah Useni [rtd], was ANPP bearing another name.