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**TOP GAINERS (AS AT 4 JAN 2010):-** NBC\* (N22.49) (4.99%), NNFM\* (N22.94) (4.98%), DANGOTE FLOUR\* (N10.42) (4.93%), CUTIX\* (N3.00) (4.89%), NASCON\* (N4.56) (4.82%)

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## Death toll rises to 70 in Bauchi

By Kazeem Ibrahim, with agency report, Published: Thursday, 31 Dec 2009

A A A A A

More bodies were recovered on Wednesday after violent clashes between security forces and members of an Islamic sect, Kala-Kato, in Bauchi.

This brought the death toll to 70, figures at a hospital morgue showed, Agence France Presse reports.

An AFP reporter counted 42 bodies on the floor of the morgue in the city, all with bullet or machete wounds. Another 25 bodies, mostly young people, including minors, had been placed in cold storage rooms.

"The bodies were brought in on Monday after the violence," a morgue employee told AFP.

Police said 38 people died in the fighting, including three members of the security forces.

The clashes erupted on Monday between suspected members of the radical sect and security forces.

The Kala-Kato sect, also known as Maitatsine, has been present in several Muslim-dominated states in northern Nigeria for decades.

It led religious uprisings in 1980 and 1992 which claimed thousands of lives in the northern cities of Kano and Yola.

The number of its followers is not known but estimated to run into several thousands.

Sect leader, Badamasi Alkalari, was among those killed by security forces, the police said.

Police forces across the country have been placed on high alert in the aftermath of the clashes, as part of a bid to forestall further violence.

Life returned to normal on Wednesday in Bauchi where the Red Cross was organising burials of the victims. Soldiers and police deployed across the city had withdrawn by early Wednesday.

"So far, we have 40 dead bodies and we have secured a warrant from the justice commissioner for the burial," Adamu Abubakar, the head of the Red Cross office in Bauchi told AFP.

"With the heat, these bodies need to be buried quickly as they will decompose rapidly," said the worker at the morgue, where the room was being cooled by a single fan.

Houses, cars and motorcycles were burnt during the clashes.

The Kala-Kato sect abhors modernity, including Western-style education and medicine. It bans television and radio in its members' homes and rejects any literature except the Koran.

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