

# Two firemen, 58 others died in Benue tanker explosion – FRSC

Published July 12, 2019



Scene of the tanker explosion

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The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Benue State, Baba Aliyu, on Thursday said 11 more victims of the recent tanker explosion have died.

This brings to 60 the number of the deceased victims. Among the dead were two officials of the state fire service, who were receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Makurdi for the injuries they suffered.

A Premium Motor Spirit-laden tanker had penultimate Monday fell and exploded at Ahumbe village on the Otukpo/Makurdi Road with many residents of the area losing their lives.

The FRSC sector commander, who spoke during a courtesy call on Governor Samuel Ortom at the Government House, Makurdi, said more victims of the tanker explosion had died, bringing the total number of the victims to 60.

“Your Excellency, we console you and the people of the state over the tanker explosion. As of yesterday (Wednesday), 11 victims of the tanker explosion receiving treatment in Aliade and Makurdi died, making the total figure of the dead to now be 60,” Aliyu informed the governor.

Speaking on the activities of the FRSC in the state, the sector commander said the command would soon begin a clampdown on motorcycle riders, who did not have licences and number plates.

The exercise, he added, would be nationwide.

“We will like to intimate you that the sector will start a clampdown on motorcycle riders without number plates and licences; this will start from August across the country,” Aliyu stated.

Ortom commended the command for its prompt response to the tanker explosion and regretted that two officials of the state fire service and many villagers lost their lives.

The governor appealed to the residents of the state to stop chasing after free items, noting that some of the victims of the tanker explosion met their untimely death while scooping free fuel.

“The tanker explosion incident was unfortunate; two officials of the state fire service have also died,” he added.