

3 It was like drama watching 10 children die after tuwon dawa meal -Zamfara man

MAIHARAJI ALTINE

A father of 10 children who died after eating tuwon dawa (corn flour dish) in Jangeme village, Mallam Musa Mai icce, has said he and the remaining six family members didn't partake in the meal

n with governor

accountability for the campaign funds proved abortive as the governor's Chief Press Secretary, Rafiu Ajakaye, neither picked calls to his phone nor responded to questions sent to him on WhatsApp.

The Special Adviser to the governor on Political Communication, Mr Bashiru Adigun, however, said, "It is a matter concerning the party and the party will issue a statement soon."

Factional Chairman of the party, Bashir Bolarinwa, urged members of the party to register and revalidate their membership when the exercise begins in the state and also reminded them to renew their voter registration cards.

Other party leaders who spoke at the gathering included a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin and former governorship aspirant, Prof Shuaib AbdulRaheem and a member of the House of Representatives, AbdulGaniyu Cook-Olododo.

Others were a former governorship aspirant, Tajudeen Makama; Akogun Iyiola Oyedepo; and a member of the state House of Assembly, Prince Saheed Popoola, who backed the minister's claims on the campaign funds.

because they were not at home.

Mai icce who spoke to *Sunday PUNCH* on Saturday said the food was cooked by his eldest daughter in the afternoon and eaten by the 10 family members.

"Myself, Rafiatu, Bashar, Babangida, Rabi and Suwaiba were not at home," he said.

He noted that the entire family would have died if everyone was at home and partook in the meal.

Mai icce stated, "The food, (turon dawa) was cooked by my elder daughter in the afternoon and was eaten by the 10 children who were at home while six of us were away. I received a phone call from one of my neighbours that one of my children was having frequent diarrhoea and vomiting. I quickly returned home and took him to the hospital. When I was in the hospital, I also received another call that the remaining children were affected by diarrhoea and vomiting. I returned home and took them to the hospital where three of them died in the night, while the remaining seven also died the following day.

He further said that the whole episode was like a drama to him, stressing that he had never experienced the kind of agony he went through.

He stated, "I was completely dumbfounded as a result of the calamity but I leave everything to God as a Muslim. It was a drama to me. I know that was how they were destined to die. We that were not at home that day weren't destined to die then. Otherwise, we would have been at home and also ate the food and died too."