

Death toll in Taraba explosion now 16, police confirm six

2 Justin Tyopuusu, Jalingo

CASUALTIES from the Tuesday explosion in Iware market in Ardo-Kola Local

Government Area of Taraba State have risen to 16, local sources said.

But the Taraba State Police

Command's spokesman, DSP Abdulahi Usman, said the death toll had risen to six.

Multiple sources in Iware, including, James Audu, Mrs. Abaagu Esther and Musa David told our correspondent that 10 people, who were taken to various hospitals, died between Tuesday night and the early hours of Wednesday.

"At least 16 people who were taken to various hospitals after the blast died between last night and this morning.

"The situation of those still in the hospital is not too good; we are only praying for their survival," Audu said in a text message to our correspondent.

This is even as the people of Iware have called on the state government and security agencies to investigate the explosion and work towards averting a repeat of the incident.

Iware is a town located 22 kilometres away from Jalingo, the state capital.

The first happened in January at a Catholic school in the neighbouring Gassol

Local Government Area, a few kilometres away from Iware where the second explosive went off on Tuesday.

El-Rufai gifts decess train attack's 1

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State has approved the sum of N18m for disbursement to families of nine persons killed by terrorists in the Abuja-Kaduna train attack.

This was made known by the Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency, Muhammad Mukadas, in Kaduna on Wednesday.

The PUNCH had reported that on March 28, terrorists planted explosives devices along the rail track and when the Abuja-Kaduna bound train approached the point, the device exploded, causing the train to derail, leading to the death of eight passengers.

A day after the attack, another passenger who suffered gunshot wound, died, increasing casualty

leaders resort to prayers over insecurity

Christian Leaders Association, has inaugurated a four-man committee for this year's Southern Kaduna Prayer Summit.

The prayer summit, which is

an annual event, was not held for two years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Inaugurating the committee on Wednesday in Kafanchan, shortly after a brief handover ceremony of the new leadership, the association's Chairman, Dr. Emmanuel Kure, tasked members to put in their best to ensure the success of the summit.

He described the prayer summit as crucial, saying prayers would be offered for the restoration and emancipation of the land.

Kure thanked the outgoing leadership of the association for the sacrifices they made during their time and solicited the support of members for the new leadership to succeed.

He called on members, especially the executives, to rededicate themselves to the cause for the spiritual growth and development of the land and her people.

Kogi community, three die

member, Kogi State House of Assembly, said, "It is real that there is an incidence of Lassa fever in Aya and neighbouring communities in Ibaji Local Government of Kogi State.

"The first incident is that about four persons fell ill and died mysteriously without anybody diagnosing the disease or cause of death. After that, others who manifested similar symptoms were taken to Iruah. The fastest access to treatment is Iruah in Edo State."

He said about nine persons had been diagnosed with the disease in Iruah.

Anambra insists on demolishing 200 houses in Onitsha