

## NEWS

# CBN explosion: Death toll rises to 3, 10 in critical condition

From: **Judex Okoro, Calabar**

THE number of people who died in the gas cylinder explosion that occurred at the Central Bank of Nigeria branch in Calabar has risen to three with 10 other casualties in critical condition.

The incident, which happened about 11:00am on Friday when banking activities were said to be at the peak, may have been as a result of electrical sparks as the bank premises is undergoing renovation work.

Sunday Sun gathered that because of the on-going reconstruction, the staff had been operating under makeshift arrangement, which could have caused an over-load of some of the facilities of the bank, possibly causing the explosion within the banking hall.

The explosion injured 18 persons, who were rushed to University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) and the Navy hospital for treatment.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the Cross River State Command, Mr John Eluu, said so far three people had been confirmed dead while about 10 are still in critical condition. The Director-General of State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Mr John Inaku, who also gave an update on the incident, added that the corpses of the dead victims had been at UCTH mortuary. He said two of the victims died of gas inhalation and one died of severe burns.

The DG of SEMA, who described the situation as unfortunate, appealed to the public to remain calm as relevant authorities were on top of the situation, warning against speculations as to the cause of the incident which may create panic and fear among the populace.

Olofin, Ekiti

ABC connected