

Death toll in Benue tanker explosion rises to 100

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The death toll from Monday's petrol tanker explosion at Ahumbe in Gwer Local Government Area of Benue State yesterday jumped to about 100 casualties.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Baba Aliyu, disclosed this

to journalists in Makurdi.

Aliyu said he and his men slept at the scene of the disaster evacuating victims to different hospitals including General Hospital, Aliade, St. Vincent hospital, Aliade, Airforce Hospital, Makurdi, Federal Medical Centre, Apir, Bishop Murray Catholic Hospital, Makurdi and Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH.

When *New Telegraph*

visited the BSUTH, many survivors were seen wallowing in pains, just as one of the 10 persons admitted had died.

Chief Medical Director of BSUTH, Terlumun Swende, lamented that the degree of burns were serious with the least persons suffering over 75 per cent.

He said the hospital has made concrete arrangement to treat the injured persons, as according to him, doctors from the epi-

demiology unit of the State Ministry of Health, as well as doctors without borders were assisting them in resuscitating the victims.

He said the hospital has set up an Emergency response Unit made up of plastic and general surgeons to help out.

"We are deploying every resources and all contacts available to salvage the situation," the CMD said.

Relations of one of the victims, Solomon Ka, Rev. Fr. Jacob Aku, who is in charge of the St. Augustine Catholic Mission, Makurdi said his nephew, a township bus driver was conveying passengers when his vehicle got entrapped in the inferno.

"He was earlier admitted at Bishop Murray hospital where we were told that his condition was very critical and referred he to BSUTH. Even here, we are told by the doctors that he may not survive and would have to be transferred to University Teaching Hospital, Enugu," Fr. Aku said worryingly

'I'm doing unpopular things, fighting powerful people'

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administration will serve honestly and genuinely, with a focus on unleashing the human and natural potentials of the country for growth.

"The 2019 elections are behind us. Nigerians have spoken, and they have spoken loudly in our favour. It is now time to serve them, and serve well. We will not fail.

"We will serve honestly, genuinely, and with our heart and might. Our

country has oscillated for too long at the level of promises and potentials. It is now time to explore and exploit the potentials for the good of all Nigerians, particularly the ordinary people. It shall be accomplished," he said.

Speaking on the membership of the group, the President said: "This group is composed of people who have identified with me since I threw my political hat into the ring in 2002. And they have stood with

me through thick and thin, abiding with me in the electoral and legal processes of 2003, 2007, 2011, till God gave us victory in 2015, and also 2019.

"Many more people joined us along the line, and the Centre expands by the day. I salute your faithfulness, your persistency, and your ruggedness. It never ceases to amaze me that you have kept faith, even when I have not given you much, or even anything, in return," he added.