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Kwara Stampede: Death Toll Rises to 25

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Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State

A valedictory session organised on Friday in Ilorin by the outgoing administration of Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State for members of the Peoples Democratic Party in the state turned sour following a stampede at the venue of the event in which about 25 people were feared dead.

Although unconfirmed reports on Friday night had put the death toll at the Mandate House, Adewole area, venue of the session at two, sources close to some members of the party in the state told newsmen Saturday that the death toll had increased to 25, while some people

were still recuperating at some undisclosed hospitals in the state.

THISDAY checks Saturday revealed that the names of the people that lost their lives included the following: Balau Jimoh, Afusat Maja, Iyabo Fuji Isiaka, Rukayat Isiaka, Mrs. Kaliatu Oba, Titilayo Suleiman, Laro Isa, Fasilat Alagbo, Nimota Saliman, and Alhaji Zayadal Ayoka Galiu. The incident, according to THISDAY investigation, occurred when Saraki met his political supporters, numbering about 5, 000, at Mandate House about 6pm on Friday.

THISDAY checks revealed that trouble started when the supporters were asked to queue to collect some valedictory package in form of clothing materials for the inauguration ceremony of today at the Metropolitan Square, Ilorin. It was gathered that the stampede occurred in the struggle for the gift items.

It would be recalled that a similar incident occurred in December last year on the eve of the Eid-El-Kabir festival at the same venue, which is Saraki's campaign headquarters, where about 45 people lost their lives.

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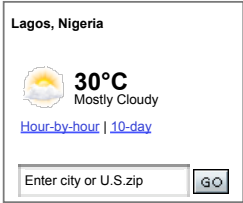
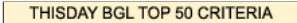
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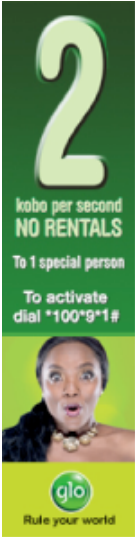
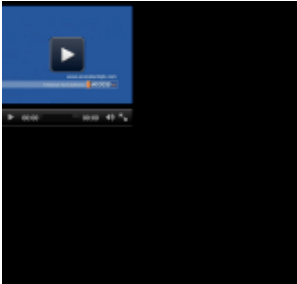
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