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### Conflicting Casualty Figures Trail Bauchi Bomb Blast

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**Bauchi State Governor, Malam Isa Yuguda**

Segun Awofadeji in Bauchi

More facts emerged on Tuesday on the bomb blast that occurred Monday at the ever-busy central market in Bauchi metropolis, which according to the police, resulted in the death of seven persons.

However, a rescue team source who pleaded anonymity told reporters that “all the body bags that they brought to the scene of the incident for the evacuation of corpses were exhausted, and there were more bodies on the ground”.

He added: “I personally counted 26 corpses apart from the many persons who suffered various degrees of injuries.”

Also speaking with journalists at the Central Market Traders’ Association, the Chairman, Alhaji Adamu Musa Noma, said about 10 of his members lost their lives in the explosion.

Speaking on what may have led to the explosion, he explained that two men dressed in mobile police uniforms and a lady came to the market on Monday evening and bought boxes and Atampa (Ankara) fabric which were then kept in a shop.

According to Noma, one of the men went outside to make a call, while the other detonated the bomb, stating that about 10 of his members lost

their lives in the explosion.

He added that about 70 shops were razed in the explosion and goods worth billions of naira were destroyed, noting that only one sector, out of three in the market, was unaffected by the bomb blast.

According to him, on Monday when the bomb blast occurred, the security committee set up by the executive committee of the association to decongest the market was meeting at the time of the blast.

He said apart from decongesting the market, the committee was saddled with the responsibility of ensuring proper parking of vehicles around the market, adding that it was done to prevent certain vehicles from being allowed to park near the market.

These, according to Noma, were parts of the security measures being put in place by the traders to safeguard lives and property in view of the security challenges in some parts of the country.

The chairman expressed gratitude to the police, army, red cross, men of the Bauchi State Fire Service and members of the Islamic Aid Group, among others, for their prompt response to distress calls and their efforts in ensuring that the fire that engulfed the market was put out.

However, the police in Bauchi have stated that seven people died in the bomb blast, while 25 others sustained injuries.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Haruna Mohammed, further revealed that three suspects were arrested for looting.

“So far, seven persons are confirmed dead, while 25 others sustained various degrees of injuries, out of which six have been treated and discharged and 19 others are responding to treatment,” Mohammed said.

He said normalcy has been restored in the market by security forces, but patrols had been intensified within and outside its vicinity.

He added that investigations into the bomb explosion were ongoing to ascertain the cause of the explosion and the extent of the damage to property.

Meanwhile, Bauchi State Governor, Malam Isa Yuguda, visited the market on Tuesday and commiserated with families of victims of the bomb blast, assuring traders that his administration will reconstruct the damaged market in order to restore their means of livelihood.

He also promised that the state government will pick up the medical bills of those injured.

The governor, who also visited the injured at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, (ATBUTH) Bauchi, stated that his administration will continue to place security on its priority list, adding that adequate security measures will be intensified in all public places to forestall future recurrence.

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