

Five Feared Dead in Stampede over N500 Alms in Katsina

Francis Sardauna in Katsina

No fewer than five women were feared dead on Saturday night, while 15 others sustained varying degree of injuries following a stampede that erupted at the residence of a Katsina-born business mogul.

The victims, who were feared dead during a vicious struggle for N500 alms (Zakat) and food

items being distributed by the business tycoon as Ramadan packages at his palatial residence within Katsina metropolis, were said to be mostly beggars.

When THISDAY visited the scene of the incident, it was gathered that many women also fainted during the struggle which started at about 9pm and lasted up to 12midnight.

Further investigation revealed that attempts were made to

revive those who fainted while the corpses of the deceased women were taken away by some security operatives and residents of the multi-billionaire's quarters.

An eyewitness told THISDAY yesterday that the process for the disbursement of the funds and foodstuffs was smooth until it was disrupted by some impatient beggars, who refused to follow the long queue.

She said: "We always go to his residence to collect N500 and sometimes food items for Ramadan but getting into the house yesterday (Saturday) was very tough and hard. I suffered some bruises, but glory be to Allah, I made it but more than seven women died and 15 others also sustained serious injuries and were rushed to hospitals yesterday night".