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## Madalla explosion: 26 persons died —NEMA

Written by Ayodele Adesanmi, Abuja Wednesday, 28 December 2011

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The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has officially declared that its record has shown that <u>26 bodies</u> have been deposited in mortuaries while many of those injured in the <u>explosion</u> are receiving treatment in hospitals.

The Director-General of NEMA, Muhammad Sani-Sidi, who made this known during his inspection of the explosion site described the explosion as a condemnable act and urged "Nigerians to imbibe the spirit of brotherhood and live peacefully among themselves."

He said as a humanitarian agency, NEMA was always conscious of its responsibility to address the plight of the distressed and victims of disasters adding that the agency would continue to collaborate with other critical stakeholders in addressing the recurring disasters in the country.

Meanwhile, Senator Aweisu Kuta, from Niger State, after visiting the scene of the explosion said, "I have visited the scene of the blast and all I can say is that it is an unfortunate incident. It is one of the deadliest bomb blasts we have ever had in this country."

Kuta, who is the Senate Committee chairman on Federal Character and Intergovernmental Affairs added that, "lives have been wasted and it is clear that the security agencies are not on top of the situation. I sympathise with the families of those who died."

He, however, stated that, "workers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) reside in Suleja emirate which means that the management of the area is beyond the scope of Niger State. The Federal Government has the duty to extend support to neighbouring communities and the whole of Suleja emirate."

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