

Kogi Gov in road accident, ADC dies on the spot

BY BOLA WALE
OBAYOPO, Lokoja
and FEMI OLUFI

KOGI State Governor, Captain Idris Wada, rtd, has been flown to Abuja in critical condition, following an auto crash which claimed the life of his Aide-De-Camp, ADC, Idris Muhammed in Lokoja yesterday. It was learnt that he would be flown abroad when his condition becomes stable.

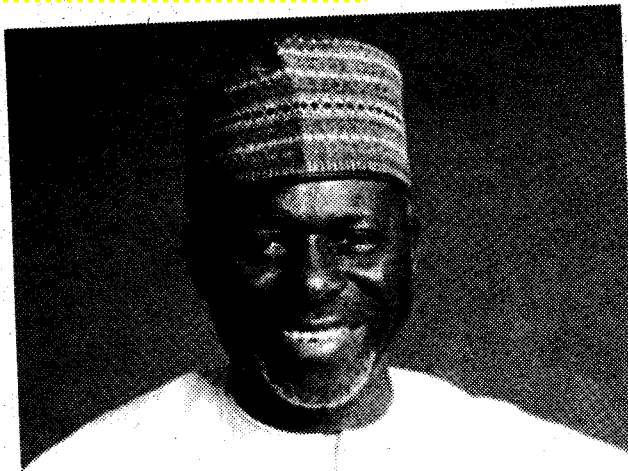
Already, the ruling Peoples Democratic Party has directed its members across the country to pray for his survival. The party in statement issued by its National Publicity Secretary, Chief Oluwa Metuh also expressed the party's deep shock over the accident.

"Our great Party is yet to recover from a rude shock arising from a recent similar incident. We therefore wish to direct all our members to observe compulsory minutes of prayers for the speedy recovery of Governor Wada and to spare the Party from further painful incidents," Metuh said, and prayed for the repose of the soul of the governor's ADC who died in the accident.

According to sources, the front tyre of the governor's car pulled out while it was on high speed and the vehicle summersaulted several times before ramming into an uncompleted building.

Wada who was returning from Ayingba after attending the Igala Summit was said to have been lucky to survive the accident as his official vehicle involved in the crash instantly became a scrap.

Saturday Vanguard was informed that Wada who was in a haste to return to Lokoja, the state capital for the Friday



Gov Idris Wada

day Jumat prayer left Ayingba by 1pm after asking his convoy of vehicles to speed up so as

to meet the prayer session. However, the accident occurred at Eleta-Jimgbe (a suburb in Lokoja) which was about five minutes drive to the Jumat Mosque.

"It was curious. Only the governor's vehicle was involved; nothing happened to other vehicles in his front nor those at the back," the sources added.

The source further said that the ADC who was not putting on his seat belt died on the spot as he was flung out while the Governor, his orderly and driver were treated at the State Specialist Hospital, Lokoja, before being flown to an undisclosed hospital in Abuja for further treatment. It was not known when he would however be flown abroad.

A statement signed by the Commissioner for Information, Yabagi Bologi confirmed the incident but added that Wada was "in a stable condition" just as he was being well catered for at the hospital, even as a government house source told Saturday Vanguard said that "all they are doing is just to get him stabilized before he is flown for better treatment."

Gunmen attack prison, police station in Adamawa

***15 killed in Maiduguri**
***20 in Yola *One in Jigawa**

BY EMMA SUE
NDAH MARAWA and
MAYU DANGIDA
Yola

NO fewer than 36 persons were feared killed in Yola and Maiduguri when unknown gunmen attacked the Maiha Prisons, before setting the Maiha

Divisional Police Station, the local government Education Authority Complex, as well as the Governor's Lodge in Adamawa State ablaze in the early hours of yesterday. In Musari Community, near Maiduguri, capital of Borno State, 15 people were also killed by some unidentified gunmen in the early hours of yesterday, the Joint Task Force, JTF Spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa has confirmed.

Musa said: "Information available to the JTF, Operation Restore Order indicated that unknown gunmen sneaked in to Musari Community - a village located at the outskirts of Maiduguri and secretly carried out selective killings of five people including a serving Nigerian Police Traffic Warden. The incident happened in the early hours of yesterday, between 1 - 3 am."

He added that the JTF troops however responded to the distressed calls and, arrested three suspected assailants and recovered one AK 47 Rifle with 10 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, pointing out that investigation had commenced to apprehend the fleeing members of the gang.

Also in Jigawa State, Ringim town was also thrown into mourning following the reported killing of a young graduate, Malam Rabi'u Danladi by a robbery gang on his way back from Kano.

Malam Danladi, 32, who was a teacher at a Police Girl's College in Shanono, Kano state was attacked by a gang of armed robbers along Ring road around

7.30pm on Thursday as he was driving a brand new car which he was going to show to his family members for their blessing and prayers.

However, the attackers of Maiha Prisons were said to have freed all the inmates, during the incident which reportedly started around 3am. The attack in Maiha came barely two weeks after another bloody attack on Madagali town, near the area. Maiha Local Government shares common border with the Cameroon Republic.

Eyewitness in Maiha who spoke to newsmen on telephone that that Divisional Police Station, Customs Area office and the Governor's Lodge, all located in the local government headquarters were completely razed down.

According to the eyewitness, the heavily armed gunmen, in their large numbers, overran the police station, carted away all the arms and ammunition, before setting it ablaze. They later proceeded to the prisons where all the inmates were set free.

They however said that the gunmen had targeted the Local government Education Authority complex which they also reportedly ransacked and set ablaze.

There was pandemonium in the entire town, following the sound of heavy gun fire and the smoke which allegedly

enveloped the area, according to the eyewitness.

Adamawa State Police Commissioner, Godfrey Okeke confirmed the incident.

Okeke who spoke on the issue from Maiha, told newsmen on the telephone, and requested not to be disturbed further as he needed rest.

"Nobody should disturb me now. Already, I am in Maiha; you people should allow me to rest," he added.

The state Police Public Relation Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent Mohammed Ibrahim also said he was with his boss in Maiha to assess the situation and declined further comments.

The state Controller of Prisons, Mr Andrew Barka, confirmed the attack on telephone. Barka, who declined to give details of the attack, said he was on his way to Maiha. "I am on my way to Maiha with the Commissioner of Police," Barka said.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the young graduate teacher, Danladi, struggled with his attackers in the process of trying to snatch the key when he was shot dead.

The deceased who was married and had three children, has since been buried in accordance with Islamic injunction even as robbery activities were on the increase especially on Ringim-Kano, Ringim-Dutse and Dutse-Kano roads respectively.

Address insecurity in the north — Anglican Knights

BY GABRIEL
ENOGHIOASE Benin

THE 17th Joint Council of Knights Delegates Conference of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) has appealed to the Federal and State governments in the northern part of the country to urgently address the spate of bombings of churches in the region which has resulted in the killing of Christians.

The Conference while also frowning at the high level of unemployment across the country and the attendant negative consequences which have led to youth restiveness, armed robbery, kidnapping, prostitution and other forms of crime, implored the government at all levels to address the is-

sue without delay by creating employment opportunities for the unemployed youths.

The Joint Council of Knights in a communique it issued at the end of its 17th Annual Delegates Conference held in Benin, the Edo State capital and signed by its President-General, Brig-General (Dr.) B.O. Aisien (Rtd), commended the Federal and state governments for the increase in budgetary allocation to the Education sector and called on parents, teachers and the government to reverse the ugly trend of the fallen standard of education in the country.

On corruption, the Conference noted that Nigeria as a nation cannot be transformed if corruption was not tackled and called on all Nigerians to join

hands in the crusade against corruption even as it said that the government at all levels must go beyond mere rhetoric in tackling the hydra-headed monster head-on.

On the privatization of the power sector, the Anglican Knights while commending the federal government for addressing the issue of power failure in the country said the privatization process should be fully guided to ensure accelerated and successful completion.

It lamented the unnecessary emphasis on state of origin and described it as counterproductive to the development and growth of the country and therefore recommended that people should be accorded their rights and privileges based on merits wherever they reside.