

persons are criminals and
go scot free. These suspects will be Dogara's residence

4 persons die during stampede in Kogi

- They were only injured — Govt
- Stay clear of Kogi, govt warns hoodlums

By Boluwaji
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LOKOJA—No fewer than four persons were feared dead in a stampede as desperate residents stormed the Kogi State warehouse in Lokoja and looted palliatives meant to cushion the COVID-19 pandemic.

The warehouse located along Murtala Muhammed Way, close to Kpata market in Lokoja, was invaded as early as 7am, yesterday, by mostly women, who looted the warehouse.

An old man, a child and two females, it was gathered, died when some youths made efforts to break into the warehouse without waiting for those sharing the items.

According to an eyewitness, Mrs Hajia Bilikisu, "At about 2.00 pm, the security personnel on guard were overpowered when the youths broke protocol and stormed the warehouse.

"The stampede that ensued led to the death of some people in the crowd who fell down in their efforts to grab some palliatives and were trampled on till they could breathe no more."

She said the security agencies at the beginning of the exercise in the morning had advised the people to maintain peace and avoid anything that would lead to stampede, but the people did not listen.

She confirmed that they were there in response to the governor's directive that the remaining items be distributed to the people.

They were only injured — Govt

However, Commissioner for Information, Mr. Kingsley Fanwo, denied any death, saying they were only wounded.

According to him, they were rushed to the hospital and had been discharged.

Stay clear of Kogi, govt warns hoodlums

Meanwhile, the state government has warned hoodlums to stay away from looting people's property in the state, saying such action will be met with the fullweight of the law.

Speaking through the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr.

Kingsley Fanwo, the government said in a statement: "The Kogi State government has expressed deep appreciation to the people of the state who turned out at the state warehouse to share the remaining palliatives that were reserved for women and youth groups after government had distributed the bulk of the palliatives to all the 21 local government areas.

"Report at our disposal showed that local government authorities ensured the palliatives reached the masses and helped in ameliorating the hardship visited on our nation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We urge our people to continue to stand tall in public conduct as government will always put their welfare on the front burners. The government of Kogi State also wishes to sound a note of warning to miscreants that all constitutional efforts will be geared towards protecting shop owners in the state as any violation of law and order will be met with superior resistance by law enforcement agencies.

"Our people should go about their normal businesses as Kogi State remains safe."