

# Kogi explosion: Victim buried, many injured ②

**By Boluwaji Obahopo**

**LOKOJA**—The 37-year-old victim of the Wednesday evening explosion in Kabba, Kogi, Ms Aisha Ibrahim, was buried yesterday.

Ibrahim was among 16 victims of the blast that occurred at a beer parlour around Lewu Junction in Kabba town.

A family member, Mr Mohammed John, who disclosed this, said: "We were only called in the night of Wednesday that Aisha died in the hospital as a result of injuries she sustained from the explosion.

"We are from Okene but we have decided to bury our daughter and sister here according to Islamic rites this Thursday. As Muslims, we believe it is the act of God and have taken it in good faith."

Also speaking, a Senior Nurse with St. John's General Hospital, Kabbah, said: "When the explosion occurred, 16 victims were rushed to our hospital.

"Unfortunately, Aisha didn't make it while four others were referred to Lokoja and Abuja for medical treatment.

"Presently, we have only seven victims left under our care including a pregnant woman while others were treated and discharged. Some of the injured left on their own."

Confirming the death of Aisha, yesterday, the state Police command attributed the cause of the explosion to gas.

A statement from the state Police Public Relations Officer, William Aya, said: "Kogi State Police Command received a report of an explosion at a

drinking joint, Lewu Junction, Kabba suspected to be gas explosion.

"But the owner of the beer parlour, Mr Ladi Olorunfemi, insisted that it was a bomb blast that rocked his business premises and not a gas cylinder explosion.

"He said the only gas cylinder around his business premises is 3kg that a lady was using to prepare snacks."

Olorunfemi described the "attack on his business premises as callous and wicked."

## Lady, 24, bags 7 years imprisonment for trafficking girls to Mali

**By Peter Duru**

**MAKURDI**—A Makurdi Federal High Court presided over by Justice Abdul Dogo has sentenced a 24-year-old lady, Mercy Sese, to seven years imprisonment for trafficking young girls to Mali for sexual exploitation.

The court, however, availed the

convict an option of N4.5 million fine for the offence after she had pleaded guilty to the seven-count charge preferred against her.

The matter was brought before the court for the offence committed contrary to the provisions of Sections 18, 27 and 29 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015.