

Family of 7 perish in fire

SELYA YARNAP, *Bauchi*

A middle-aged man, his mother and five children, were at the weekend, in Dutsen Tanshe, Bauchi, burnt to death, with the wife in critical condition at the state Specialist Hospital.

In a swift reaction, Governor Adamu Mu'azu has donated N3 million to assist the wife and a

surviving son, who escaped the inferno.

The deceased was identified by neighbours as Alhaji Umar Dukku, a businessman and former staff of Federal Mortgage Bank in Bauchi.

A source told our correspondent that the midnight inferno which engulfed late Dukku's Dutsen Tanshe apartment, Friday, was allegedly

ignited by faulty electrical cables.

Some sympathizers said that security build up around the building prevented rescue operation from both the neighbours and men of the fire service from gaining access into the house.

A neighbour, Alhaji Usman Hayyatu explained that the fire started around 12am "and immediately the neighbour came

to offer assistance and some rushed to call men of the Fire Service, but gaining entry into the building was difficult because of the burglary proof erected at the door".

Speaking further he said that the neighbours had to break the wall before they could gain access, stressing that before they could do that "the fire had consumed Dukku and one of his sons, while his mother and three

Republicans battle for Congress

SEYI FASUGBA, *New York*

AMERICANS will today, file out to vote in a decisive election that would see the Democrats needing more than 15 seats in the Congress and about six in the Senate to tactically take control of the George Bush's administration.

A last-minute rally for support for Republicans led by President George W Bush himself, is expected to have a significant impact on the outcome of the elections even as observers see

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children died of suffocation in a bathroom and the wife was badly burnt".

Hayyatu also revealed that the mother of the deceased was in Bauchi to thank her son for paying her hajj fares for this year's pilgrimage, saying that the deceased was a businessman, who had worked with the Federal Mortgage Bank in Bauchi.

Governor Mu'azu expressed his condolences saying as "a

Family

Muslim they should hand over everything to God whom he said has designed the way the family died in the fire."

Muazu donated the sum of N3 million to assist the family saying N2 million should be used for medical expenses while N1 million should be handed over to a trustee pending when the wife recovers and is discharged from the hospital.

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