

# 3 students die in hostel fire

KOLA ADEPOJU, Abeokuta

**B**ARELY 24 hours after the political violence which rocked Abeokuta, Ogun State capital weekend, three female students of Federal College of Education, FCE, Osiele, Abeokuta were in the early hours of yesterday roasted to death while sleeping in their hostel apartment.

They were Temitayo Ogungbuyi Esther (Pre. NCE Agric), Gbonjuola Ajayi (Primary Education Studies) and Odunayo Olatunbosun (Primary Education/Yoruba Economics).

Aside their death, Room 16 BLOCK E where the deceased were residing and incidentally met their death, the adjoining room 17 was only torched.

Our correspondent who visited the campus early yesterday morning gathered from colleagues of the deceased that their death was caused by power surge which blew off one of the electrical appliance at 4.20am.

The students were said to be sleeping when the fire ignited by the spark caught up with them on their bunk beds and burnt them to death before help could come their way.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the casualty would have been more than the number of victims since six students shared a room but

reduced the number of occupants to three at the time of the incident.

Some of the colleagues of the deceased who were visibly angered by the incident complained bitterly to our correspondent that it could have been averted if the college authority had granted their request to replace the obsolete electrical gadgets in their rooms.

Reacting, the College Provost, Dr. Olufemi Filani who confirmed the death of the three students, said he was not aware of faulty or old electrical gadgets at the students hostel.

Filani who described the death of the students as pathetic and unfortunate, said the cause of the fire which killed them could not be ascertained as at press time.

Also reacting, the College Dean of Students Affairs, Mr. Kola Anidugbe said none of the students reported the deplorable condition of the gadgets in their rooms to him saying "If we got wind of it, we would have acted promptly".

Meanwhile, parents and guardians who have their children and wards in the hostel yesterday stormed the female hall to ascertain their state.

However, the College authority has ordered six weeks break to mourn the three students.