

Fuel tragedy: Mum, 3 kids burnt to death

Senate may reverse sale of refineries

COSMAS EKPUNOBI, Abuja

SENATE yesterday queried the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) over the sale of the nation's refineries, stating that the action may not be in the interest of Nigerians.

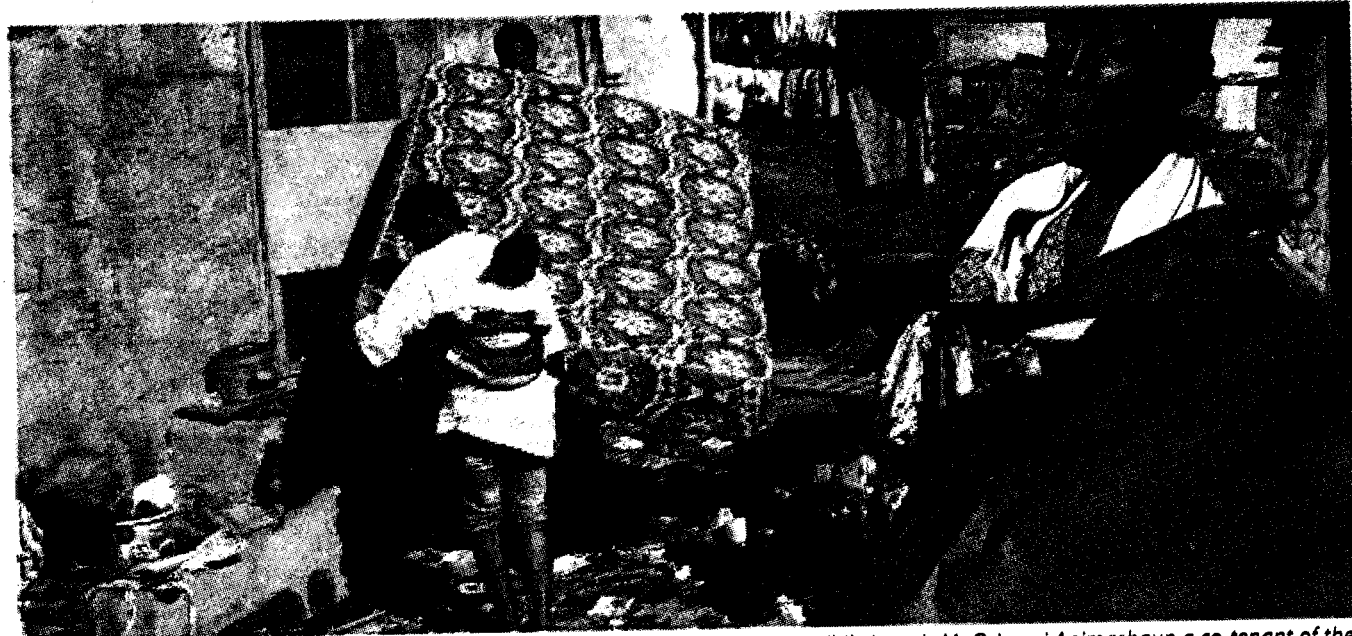
But the BPE in its reaction insisted that the sale of the

Continues on Page 6

COUNTRYMAN

BE PATIENT WITH VOGTS

—ADEPOJU



FIRE... Houses burnt in the inferno and a survivor salvaging some of her property. While inset is Mr Oriyomi Animashaun a co-tenant of the deceased family who witnessed the fiery incident.

PHOTO: LUKKEY ABAWURU

LUKKEY ABAWURU and
TUNBOSUN OGUNDARE

MOTHER of three with her two-month-old baby boy, Jubril Ogundeyi and two sisters, were on Wednesday night in Lagos roasted to death by an inferno that gutted their shanty house, following alleged explosion from fuel hoarded in the house.

As at press time, the husband and father of the deceased, Mr Akeem Ogundeyi, was still recuperating in an undisclosed Lagos hospital as a result of shock over the tragic loss of his entire family.

He was said to have slumped when the news of the tragedy was broken to him by neighbours.

Daily Champion gathered

Continues on Page 6

Continued from P.1

that the home located at Ifelodun Street, off Chidi Estate, Ajegunle, Lagos, caught fire when a local lantern (*Atupa*) fell from the table, causing the explosion.

Our correspondents who visited the scene yesterday, observed that there was wailing and weeping by sympathizers who trooped to the place to catch a glimpse of the incident.

A next door neighbour to the deceased identified as Mr Oriyomi Animashaun, said the incident occurred at about 10.30 pm Wednesday when the late mother, identified as *Iya Baraka* (mother of Baraka), lit a local lantern to enable her cook food for the children inside the one room apartment.

According to the witness, the lantern caught fire and fell

Fuel tragedy

on top of their pillow, which immediately spread to other parts of the bed.

He added that the woman attempted to put off the fire but some jerry cans of "scarce" petrol allegedly hidden under the bed exploded resulting in the razing of over 15 shanties in the area.

Animashaun stated that the husband, a security guard at Awodiora market was not in the house when the incident occurred.

"He went out around 9.00 pm to his security post at the market, but shortly after his departure, he heard shouts of people crying and weeping, he rushed back to the place, and saw the charred bodies of his wife and children, my friend could not withstand the sight,

he slumped."

The witness further said "I strongly suspect that some jerry cans of fuel were hidden somewhere, that was why there was an explosion which razed the entire shanties. If not by God's intervention, this two storey building (pointing to a big modern house beside the shanties) would have been razed down because of the explosion."

Animashaun who said he has lived in the place for the past ten years with the family said the family celebrated the birth of their only son, late last month.

"Who knows that the last time we would have seen *Iya Baraka* dancing and clinking wine glass was that day when they celebrated the arrival of Jubril, the only boy in the family."

The witness gave the

names of the other children who also died as Baraka and Fatia, aged between nine and seven.

Daily Champion recalls a similar tragedy that shook Lagos to its foundation on December 26, last year occurred at Awori, in Abule Egba, area of Lagos State.

People, however, were observing the Boxing Day when oil from a burst pipeline suddenly caught fire claiming at least 500 people, mostly teenagers.

There was a serious fuel scarcity in the country then and many people - young and old, saw the burst pipeline as a great opportunity to siphon fuel, for personal and commercial uses.

Some of them, who siphoned the fuel were however, lucky to escape the inferno to tell their story.

Continued from P.1