

# Oil field fire kills 3 in Rivers

TONY ITA ETIM, Port Harcourt

**A**T least three persons were feared dead in an inferno that occurred in one of the oil fields in the riverine Kalabari Kingdom, Rivers State.

*Saturday Champion* gathered that the fire occurred in the early hours of yesterday, leaving many persons wounded.

The incident occurred in Soku oil field in Degema local government

Area.

Though the actual cause of the fire could not be ascertained as at press time, sources from the area attributed it to the activities of illegal bunkerers in the area.

According to sources, the inferno consumed about four barges that were used during the illegal business.

The sources claimed that the death toll may be higher than the three persons reported to have died

because of the magnitude of the fire and the large number of people present during the mishap.

When our correspondent called the cellphone of the commissioner for police, Rivers state command, a voice answered that he was attending a meeting.

Calls to cellphone of Joint Task Force spokesman, Lt. Colonel Sagir Musa did go through as the network replied that the number was not available.