

THE persisting fuel scarcity in the country has continued to take its toll on Nigerians as commercial motor cyclist, popularly known, as *okada*, was killed in Lagos on Monday due to fire incident originating from a generating set.

The incident which occurred at No 3 Animashaun Street Shasha, Akowonjo killed the victim identified as Fatai Sholeye alias Borroro and unidentified person as well as injuring three others.

Borroro was said to have gone out to see some friends on the day of the incident, apparently to enable him raise some money to retrieve his siezed bike from the police but was caught by heavy vehicular traffics that got him bored.

Our correspondent who visited the scene of the incident reports that neighbours and passersby wailed uncontrollably as the charred remains of the *okada* rider was seen at the place. A source said the deceased came home after the traffics and as a result of the fatigue, arising from the vehicular traffic, the victim went to bed, and dosed off.

But luck ran out of him on that night when a mallam, who squats in apartment with Fatai, lit a local lantern, to enable him pray, which he placed on a gallon in the room, not knowing that there were some contents of fuel inside the gallon. Immediately he placed it, the cover of the gallon turned

Generator fire kills father, son

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upside down, there and then the 'atupa' (local lantern) fell into the gallon fire exploded and the whole place started burning.

The mallam immediately ran out of the building, shouting fire, fire, and in a bid to escape from the fire, he got burnt all over his body, as he ended up, falling into a near by gutter.

Some neighbours that woke up from their sleep by the noise and wailing of Sholeye were able to quench the fire on him.

While all these were happening, Sholeye family were still struggling to come out of the building as Fatai's wife, Mama Ismaila, who managed to get outside saw that her husband and two children were still trapped inside the burning house.

She then ran inside the house to assist them but she succeeded in bringing out her children, with the youngest, sustaining some burns. Unfortunately, her husband could not make it, as the fire was too much and so he was burnt to death.

Later the mallam who had fallen into the gutter was rushed to a nearby clinic in

the area together with Ismaila the deceased youngest son and his wife who has been weeping all along.

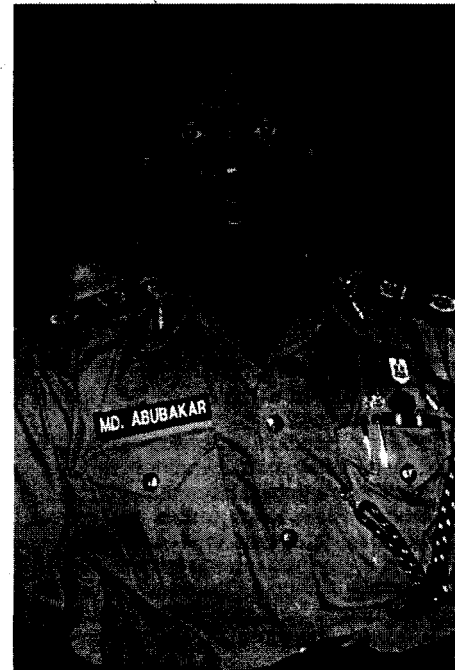
A neighbour simply identified as Miss Mistula told our reporter that a fire brigade was contacted that night and that it was at this time that they were able to quench the fire as efforts of the tenants and neighbours to quench the inferno proved abortive.

Our reporter also, reliably gathered that an Ambulance was contacted same night, in order to take some of the injured tenants and neighbours numbering about three to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) for urgent medical attention.

When the news of his death was broken to his beloved wife on Wednesday, Mrs. Sholeye, was said to have fainted and was rushed to a nearby clinic, called Mary the Queen Clinic at Shasha area for urgent medical attention.

A neighbour who simply identified himself as Brother Wasiu Bolade told our reporter that the remains of Mr. Sholeye has since been taken to a burial ground at Ayobo area of Alimosho for internment, according to Muslim rites.

However police source at Ipaja police station said investigation has begun.



•Akpoiybo, CP, Lagos.