

Gateman burnt to death in Enugu

A gate man identified as Mr Tairu Umaru, got burnt to death at FEMKENS Onahs Petroleum Ltd. in Onuiyi, Nsukka Local Government of Enugu State, on Saturday night.

Mr Joshua Akuwe, Manager of FEMKENS, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Nsukka on Monday.

Akuwe said that the incident occurred on Saturday night, but was noticed on Sunday morning when he discovered that the window of the small room from where Umaru was guarding the station had been completely burnt.

"It was then I raised alarm which attracted people around and passersby.

"I immediately rushed to report the matter at Nsukka police station.

"Only God knows what happened to the gateman and where the fire that killed him came from.

"It is a sad incident, he was a hardworking gateman.

"I also reported to the Hausa community, you can see that they are here to carry the corpse for burial."

Mr Umaru Saidu, leader of the Hausa community in Nsukka, described the incident as unfortunate, adding that they would find out the cause of the fire that burned the gateman to death.

"As Islam religion demands, we will first bury him before finding out what happened.

"I know it is fire that burned him but we will find out the source of the fire since there was no electricity connection in that room."

Mr Ebere Amarizu,

Enugu State Police Public Relations Officer (PRO), confirmed the incident, saying that the police had started investigation into the circumstances

surrounding the death of the gateman.

"Yes, the ugly incident had been reported to the police of the death of gateman who burned to death last Saturday night at

FEMKENS Onahs Petroleum Ltd. in Onuiyi Nsukka.

"Police has commenced investigations that will find out how the fire that killed him entered the room."

Houseboy jailed for criminal misappropriation

AN Abuja Senior Magistrates' Court yesterday sentenced one Abel Timothy, a 31-year-old houseboy of 3, Tunis St. Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, to three months in prison for alleged criminal.

Senior Magistrate Bashir Alkali, however, gave him an option of N1000 fine.

The police prosecutor, Cpl. David Udeh, told the court that on Nov 27, one Hajiya Zainab Mohammed of the same address reported Timothy at the Wuse Zone 3 Police Station.

Udeh said that Mohammed gave Timothy, who was her houseboy, the sum of N115,000 to pay into her Diamond Bank account but he converted N35,000 to

his personal use.

Udeh said that the offence of criminal misappropriation was in contravention to section 309 of the Penal Code.

Timothy, who pleaded guilty to the offence asked the court to forgive him.

He promised never to commit such a crime again as he did that due to the condition he found himself.

"My daughter was very sick as at that time and I needed money to use for her treatment and my madam had travelled to Dubai so, I could not ask her for assistance.

"I used the N35,000 to treat my daughter and I told her to deduct it from my salary but she refused

and insisted on taking me to the police station," Timothy explained.

On pleading guilty to the offence, Udeh urged the court to try Timothy summarily under Section 157(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

He also urged the court to order the convict to refund the N35,000 to Mohammed under Section 78 of the Penal Code.

Alkali said though the explanation of the convict sounded sympathetic and showed the love between father and daughter, it did not erode the offence of misappropriation.

He said the sentence was to serve as a lesson to him and a deterrent to others.

Driver nabbed for defrauding insurance broker of N9.7m

A 40-year-old driver, Raufu Olayinka, was on yesterday put in dock at an Igbosere Magistrate's Court, Lagos, for allegedly defrauding Marina Security Ltd, Lagos, the sum of N9.7 million.

Olayinka of No.10, Nobiri St., Orile-Agege, Lagos, is facing a three-count charge of stealing, forgery and impersonation.

He, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The prosecutor, Sgt. Babatope Julius, told the court that Olayinka on Aug. 17 at Amodu Ojikutu St., Victoria Island, Lagos, forged a driver's licence with an electricity bill bearing one Mr Olusegun Asunbo to defraud Marina Securities Ltd., Lagos.

Julius said that the defendant used Asunbo's name to open a stockbroker's account with Marina Securities Ltd.,

Lagos, and impersonated Asunbo to collect the sum of N9.7 million from Marina Securities Ltd., Lagos.

The prosecutor said the offences contravened sections 409, 318 and 285 of the Criminal Code, Laws of Lagos State, 2011.

Magistrate F.O. Aigbokhaevbo, granted the accused a N2 million bail, with two sureties in like sum, and adjourned the case till December 18