

Pyramid Trust

Midnight fire consumes mother, four children

Two fire incidents in Kano metropolis, this week, brought much agony and pain to two families involved. In all seven persons lost their lives, one adult and six children.

The most bizarre, mysterious and sympathetic accident involved the family of Muhammed Adamu Diso of Charanci quarters in the suburb of Kano who was on pilgrimage to Meccah when the incident occurred. He left his wife Maryam, 30, together with their four children (Ahmantu 9yrs, Ra'idawa 7yrs, Abdul-haq 5yrs, Al-Amin 2yrs) hale and hearty before embarking on the trip to the Holy Land.

He was among the pilgrims to be airlifted back at the end of the pilgrim's evacuation from Jiddah but he was singled out of the other pilgrims and asked to prepare for a return journey. "That got him thinking something was wrong at home because he was just an ordinary pilgrim like others. He tried to call his wife but she would not pick up the phone, his call to friends equally did not yield any result as we have decided not to inform him of the tragedy that befell his family" Alhaji Muhammed's brother, Adamu recalled in a chat with *Pyramid Trust*.

Alhaji Muhammed thought it was his aged father that has died because of the manner his brothers and friends who received him at the airport were behaving. Until he got to his family house at Charanci quarters and saw both his parents still alive there he was told the terrible news that his wife Maryam and their four children have perished in a mysterious midnight fire that affected only one room in their 3 bedroom apartment, unfortunately, that was the room the five deceased were sleeping that night.

According to Mallam Muhammad's brother who lived in the same neighbourhood with the deceased, Maryam had taken the children to their grand-mother and gone visiting relatives in the city. When she return, he said, it was already late in the evening and the children had started to dose-off at their grandmother's house.

He continued, "The grand-mother advised that she leave the children to stay the night with her but she (Maryam) insisted to take them home. We went about our daily activities the next day which is Sunday not

From Musa Umar Kazaure,
Kano

knowing what had happened in the house of Alhaji Muhammed because there

was that the fire did not spread to other part of the house, not even the furnitures in room was affected, just the mattress on

Meanwhile, the husband is yet to summon courage to return to the house where he once lived with his four beautiful children and his wife,



The room where Abdulwaheed and AbdulMalik were burnt to death

was no any sign of fire incident from the front view of the house."

He added that by Monday they began to get worried about the family because the children, who were used to playing around the neighbourhood had not been sighted for two days and no one had seen the mother for two days. "We knocked on the door severally but there was no response, yet the main gate to the house which she usually lock with padlock was left open. So we thought she went out on an errand or something with the children. But on the third day, which is Tuesday we decided to break into the house and find out what was actually wrong."

Some youths in the area were asked to climb through the neighbour's fence, he said, "They were greeted with terrible odour emanating from the already decomposing bodies of the burnt wife and children of Alhaji Muhammad. They open the door to let us in and we were horrified by the sight of the deceased in the room. The three children were on the floor burnt beyond recognition while the mother was still on the bed with her little 2yrs old Al-Amin clinging unto her. The child was burnt but she was partially burnt. I think she died from inhaling the smoke than from the fire itself. It was a pitiful sight." The brother narrated almost in tears.

The irony of the incident, according to Alhaji Muhamadu's brother, Adamu

which the children were sleeping and some clothes in the room. Her mobile phone, which ran out of charge was in the living room with all the missed calls of her husband from Saudi Arabia and her neighbours and relatives seeking to know her were-

Maryam. "The memory of his family will torment him if he returns now because he so much loved his wife and children. May Allah have mercy on their soul," concluded his brother Adamu.

Just a day after the discovery of the bodies of Alhaji



Alhaji Mohammed and his wife, the late Hajiya Maryam holding the late Al-Ameen.

about.

The source of the fire that wiped out all the family of Alhaji Muhammed while he was away on a pilgrimage could not be ascertain. While some speculated that it may have started from a lamp kept near the mattress on which the children were sleeping, others say the fire could be the work of electrical faults because of the frequent electricity fluctuation in the area.

Muhamadu's family at Charanci Quarters, another tragedy struck on Wednesday this week at the residence of an Upper Sharia Court Judge, Alhaji Muhammad Ghali along Court road. Two of his grandson, Abdulmalik 4yrs and Abdulwaheed 2yrs were killed in a mid-morning fire incident in his house.

Narrating the incident to *Pyramid Trust*, Alhaji Ghali said the two children were sleeping in their mother's liv-

ing room together with their elder sister, Anisa aged 6. "Initially, we thought the fire

Mahmud Muhammed Ghali was said to have been rushed to a private hospital for medi-



Children of Alhaji Mohammed who perished in the fire incident at Charanci Qrts

was from an electrical fault but Anisa, their sister later told us what happened. Abdulwaheed, the youngest got hold of a match box somehow, he began playing with it while the other two were asleep on a mattress on the floor of the living room. He lit one of the match and it fell on the mattress which immediately caught fire. In desperation, he woke his elder sister to alert her of the fire. When she woke up, she discovered the mattress on which they were sleeping was on fire, and so she took off to inform her mother but before we could reach the room, the entire place was in flame. We tried severally to enter but there was just no way." The aggrieved grandfather narrated to *Pyramid Trust*.

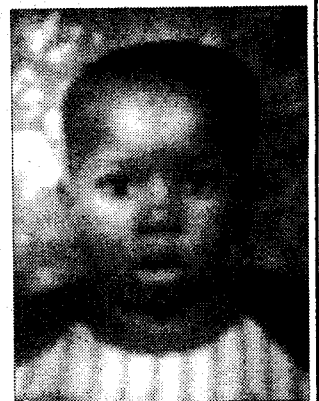
All effort by neighbours who came to assist in control-

cal attention due to shock and trauma of seeing his two little children die before him and there was nothing he could do.

When *Pyramid Trust* visited the residence of Upper Sharia Court Judge at Court Road, the house was besieged by sympathizers who came to pay condolence to the bereaved family even as the carelessness with fire especially during this time of harmattan dominated the discussion.

The assistant chief fire officer of the Kano State Fire Service, Alhaji Muhammad Mustapha Rilwanu had earlier warned residents in Kano state to be cautious while heating their rooms with fire so as to avoid unnecessary fire outbreak during this harmattan period.

Alhaji Mustapha advised the general public to ensure that electric heater and or local charcoal that were used for heating rooms are removed after warming the rooms.



Abdulwaheed who died in the fire incident at Court Road

He also called on the people to ensure that all electrical circuits are off and electronics were unplugged before they retire to bed or going to their places of work.

The assistant chief fire officer further warned parents and guardians to desist from keeping any flammable items close to children and or allowing them to play with fire.

CHANGE OF NAME

Formerly 'Asama'u Rabi'u Yahaya now Asama'u Mukhtar Ahmed former documents remain valid, B.U.K., N.Y.S.C. to take note.

I formerly known as Umar Garba Aliyu wish to be called Mujahid Abdullahi Ahmad former documents remain valid Kano State College of Education Kumbotso general public to note.