

Valentine's Day fire kills mother, 2 daughters

**By Musa U. Bologi &
Turaki A. Hassan**

The household of a pastor at Dutse-Alhaji was on Valentine's Day thrown into mourning when fire gutted their apartment and killed the pastor's wife as well as two daughters.

The pastor of the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, Samuel Oruamen was at the church when the incident happened.

His son, Bishop Samuel however survived the incident that occurred at No 7, Zone 6, Dutse-Alhaji.

While recounting the incident, Bishop said the fire started at 12am when high current from Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) made a socket inside the apartment catch fire.

He said the fire spread to the ceiling of the apartment and affected the rooms were the

mother and his two sisters, Anne and Alice slept.

He said nobody could escape because of the thick smoke that filled the parlour and the burglary proofs at the windows.

"When the heat became unbearable, I managed to escape," he lamented.

An eye witness, Sunday Okotie, said it was Bishop's

wailing that alerted neighbours to the scene of the incident.

The witness said the heavy metal door at the entrance of the apartment made it difficult for people to enter inside the apartment to rescue the three victims.

"By the time we got inside the house, they were already burnt beyond recognition," he said.

Bishop's brother, Bayo Samuel said he learnt about the

incident and rushed down to the scene of the incident.

"I am short of words, but God understands how and why it happened," he said.

The pastor, Mr Samuel Aruamen could not be reached, as he was said to be in a state of shock.

A police officer at the Dusten - Alhaji police station confirmed the incident and said investigation were on to determine the cause of the fire.