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NIGERIANS GROAN AS POWER SURGE CLAIMS LIVES

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An orphanage destroyed by power surge

The incidence of fire outbreaks associated with power surges across the country seems to have risen in the last few months claiming lives and property worth millions of naira.

Only last week, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) resident electoral commissioner in Kano State, Alhaji Munkaila Abdullahi, died along with his wife and two children in a fire linked to power surge in their Sir Kashim Road, Nasarawa GRA home.

Kano State police command said the family perished as a result of smoke inhalation from the inferno that

gutted residence after the air conditioner caught fire around 4.30am penultimate Friday.

Less than three days after the Kano inferno, Mr. Ahmed Jimoh, lost his life in similar circumstances in the Kubwa, an Abuja suburb.

Neighbours said there had been frequent power fluctuations in the area and one the fateful day he died caused the air conditioner in his living room to burst into flames that engulfed the building.

Mrs. Jimoh, who was in the living room at the time, was badly burnt and is in intensive care while Mr. Jimoh lost his life trying to rescue his family.

Earlier in March, fire gutted the Friendship with Christ Home for the Poor also in Kubwa.

Dr. Tochukwu Anojulu, foundress of the home, explained that she noticed that when power was restored: "Our light bulbs began blowing up. I realised it was as a result of high voltage. I immediately went to the change-over unit and changed the phase to one with more regular voltage. I then went on to change the destroyed bulbs."

Two days later while preparing for the day, she perceived the smell of wires burning: "In my night dress, I went looking for the source and just as I headed to the children's bedroom, I saw the ceiling and mattresses in flames. I raised alarm and neighbours came to help put out the fire (after literally everything in the flat was destroyed). About 20 minutes after, fire fighters came and they succeeded in putting it out."

Unable to rescue any of her belongings, she is now battling court and allegations from her landlord that she deliberately set the house on fire.

Following the rainfall in parts of Abuja last Wednesday, some residents of Dawaki Extension lost a good number of their home appliances and gadgets to power surge.

Buba Abubakar said: "When power came back after the rain, I heard something like an explosion and immediately

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noticed one of my security lights go out followed by all the others which were on as well as my fan. Luckily, my refrigerator was with an adaptor. So I switched it off immediately."

Many people have complained of the rise in power surge related fire incidents and a called for action to remedy the situation.

Weekly Trust contacted the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company to know if it was a matter they were aware of and what measures were in place to curb the issue, but was told the matter was being investigated as the company has not received any official report yet.

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