

Body of girl, 6, found after fire burnt parent's house

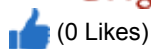
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One week after fire burnt a residential apartment on Edibe Edibe Street in the Calabar South area of Cross River State, the body of a 6-year old missing girl trapped in the inferno has been found.

According to neighbours, the fire incident occurred following explosion from a stove where one of the ten tenants, a woman, was cooking at about 8pm last week Saturday. The kerosene was suspected to have been adulterated.

During the ensued stampede by tenants and neighbours as well as passers-by to put out the fire and save lives and properties, the girl, whose name was not immediately known, was forgotten and whereabouts were unknown.

Not knowing that she was already trapped and burnt, the father, Itoro Effiong, a 40 year old tricycle driver, had accused the girl's mother, who was no longer living with him, of surreptitiously abducting the girl following the stampede.

Daily Trust learnt that neighbours noticed an unusual gathering of flies and other insects at a particular spot at the burnt building. When they checked, they saw the decomposed body of the little girl.

The father of the poor girl could not speak as was devastated having lost his entire household properties and now his little girl to the fire.