

Mother, two kids die in fire accident

TRAGEDY struck on Sunday, the family of Ikechukwu Udeh, a banker with the United Bank for Africa (UBA), Ugbowo branch in Benin City when his wife and two children were burnt to death when their apartment caught fire following intermittent power supply in the area on that day.

Sources said that they noticed smoke emerging from a flat at the top

floor of their storey building at No 24, Concord Road, Erediawa off Ekenwan Road.

Ikechukwu Udeh was said to have also recently lost his newly acquired Toyota Camry to armed robbers.

According to one of the eyewitnesses, nobody knew that the woman and her children were trapped in the house and nobody heard of any cry for help except a young

*From Ozioruva Aliu,
Benin*

boy who said he saw her throw the keys to her door from the window apparently hoping somebody would help open the door from outside.

"It was yesterday evening about 4 p.m. when we heard people shouting that the house was on fire. By the time we were trying to put out the fire, we didn't even

know that there was somebody inside the house, so we did the best we could before the fire service people came about 30 minutes after the fire started.

"After some time, we discovered that the woman and her new baby and the older girl were inside. By the time we noticed it, the three of them were already dead.

Recounting his ordeal

to *The Guardian*, Udeh's neighbour, Chris Omotie, a senior employee of the Edo State House of Assembly Commission said he lost virtually all he had laboured for.

"When power was restored, I ironed my shirt and trousers and about 10 minutes later the thing happened. We are suspecting that it could have been caused by electrical fault,

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