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## Inferno Kills Father And Daughter

**A** commercial motorcyclist, Mr. Clement Ibeneme and his nine-year old daughter, Amuchie died in a fire which engulfed their Lagos residence recently. The loss of the duo has left the family distraught.

*By Laolu Adeyemi*

**ON** Saturday July 25, an inferno razed number 113, Ikotun-Isolo Road, Ikotun Egbe, Lagos, burning to death a 55-year old commercial motorcyclist, Mr. Clement Ibeneme and his nine-year old daughter, Amuchie.

The duo were said to be sleeping in their two bedroom apartment when one of the rooms suddenly caught fire at about 10.10pm that fateful Saturday. Neighbours had immediately rallied round to put out the fire but all efforts to do so proved abortive. At about 11.20pm, they sought to call in the Fire Brigade to come to rescue the situation.

The Fire Brigade, according to information gathered, arrived a few minutes later because of the closeness of the place to the station. But it was rather too late to save the man and his daughter.

Their remains were taken to the Isolo General hospital mortuary with the help of the LASAMBUS crew who also came to scene.

An eyewitness account revealed that the inferno was caused by petrol leakage from an okada motorcycle parked inside one of the rooms by the deceased. A lit candle was said to have been in the room and it consequently ignited the fire.

Twenty-year-old Uzoma, a footballer and son of the late Clement Ibeneme, told The Guardian : "I was at my friend's place when somebody came to inform me that my house was on fire. At first I could not believe the message because it was not quite long that I left home. But out of curiosity, I dashed down to my house and found out that it was true. We started making efforts together with the neighbors to quench the fire but we could not until we called the fire service".

According to him, his late father made frank efforts to escape but there was no other exit than the major entrance to the apartment and the windows were blocked by burglary-proof iron rods which prevented them from escaping.

Uzoma disclosed that his mother had not been told about what happened because she has been ill for the past six months. "I have not informed her because she might just give up the ghost and add to our loss."

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The weight of the loss was palpable as Uzoma who finished secondary school in 2004 repeatedly moaned: "How can I lose two persons at once? What am I going to do? I don't even know what to do now since I am just a footballer playing with the Lucky Star team."

It is obvious that a lot of responsibility has been thrust on his shoulders. He is making arrangements to collect the corpses and take them to the village.

Mr. Clement Ibeneme hailed from Mbaise in Imo state. He had been into okada business for the past 12 years after his provisions business failed.

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