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Mysterious fire engulfs residence, kills three family members in Benue

WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2013 00:00 FROM JOSEPH WANTU, MAKURDI **NEWS - METRO**



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TRAGEDY struck in the early hours of Tuesday in Makurdi, Benue State capital as a mysterious fire engulfed a twobedroom flat, claiming the lives of one Terhemba Makka, a senior staff of the Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) his wife and four-year-old daughter.



An eyewitness in the area, one Tavershima told The Guardian that the fire started at about 2 am vesterday when power supply was restored by Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to the area.

According to the eyewitness: "We heard people shouting fire, fire from inside the house. We heard someone screaming 'help me, help me.' The flame and smoke was too much. But the house has only one entry door with burglary proofs supporting the windows and doors so it became very difficult for any one to go in and rescue any one of them.

"While some youths were pouring water on the fire, others struggled hard to break a portion of the house and managed to rescue the deceased's son. Even before men of the fire service could arrive the scene, the entire house had been completely engulfed by fire," he intimated.

The eyewitness said the rescued nine year-old-son of the deceased that was taken out of the house through a broken portion was quickly rushed to St. Theresa's hospital, located in High Level for medical treatment

Some of the sympathizers at the scene of incidence, however, decried the attitude of officers of the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC) who they said came to the scene of the incident but refused to convey the corpses to the mortuary on flimsy excuse that they lacked gloves and stretcher to do so.

The Guardian further learnt that the late Makka who moved in to the area barely six months ago, had early this year buried his first wife who also died mysteriously.

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Author of this article: From Joseph Wantu, Makurdi

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