

Fire Guts Ogbeogonogo Market In Asaba

• Two Drown In Nearby River

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Makeshift structures at the popular Ogbeogonogo Market in Asaba, Delta State, were on Monday gutted by a midnight fire, which destroyed property estimated at millions of naira just as two corpses were found at the bank of the river behind the market.

As at press time, the cause of

the fire had not been established, but some persons said that it spread from a refuge heap behind the market.

Leader of the market women, Mrs Felicia Williams, however said the refuge is never burnt.

"We do not set it on fire. I am suspecting some persons came and ignited it," she said.

The inferno reportedly started about 1.30 a.m and

razed to ashes cosmetics and provision shops, meat and other food items stalls. But the almost completed ultra-modern structure being built by the state government was not affected.

During a visit to the scene, chairman of the Oshimili South Council Area, Mr Charles Halim, lamented that most of the affected traders had taken loans from government to erect

the structures.

He however informed that a committee comprising the council officials and leadership of the market had been constituted to among other things determine victims and the value of goods destroyed.

In another development, two male corpses were found at the bank of the River Niger behind the market on Tuesday.

Spokesperson of the state police command, Miss Okuwobi Olabisi, who confirmed the incident, informed that the deceased had gone to the River Niger to swim and drowned in the process.