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Tuesday, 30 September 2008

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Three-year-old Baby Burnt To Death In Minna

By Chinwendu Nnadozie, Reporter, Minna

A three-year-old girl, Hassana Masaud, was on Friday burnt to death in the Tunga area of Minna, the Niger State capital, when fire gutted the house in which she was sleeping.

The immediate cause of the fire outbreak was not known at the time of filing this report, but neighbours to the deceased's family said the fire could be traced to electrical fault in one of the rooms in the compound.

The mother of the deceased, Hajara Saharatu Masaud, according to investigations, had left the girl sleeping in the room to fetch firewood for the evening meal only to return to meet the house on fire, with the baby trapped inside.

All efforts by neighbours to rescue the child proved abortive as the fire burned intensely and spread rapidly through the entire compound.

Eyewitness accounts on the incident were varied. While some said the fire started from a room occupied by some members of the National Youthe Service Corps (NYSC), others claimed poor electric wiring caused the fire. Yet, some held that it might have emanated from the kitchen.

When the father of the girl, Mallam Habibu Masaud, a trader, who was at the market as at the time of the incident, got hints of the development, he was said to have rushed to the scene, but he could not do anything to save little Hassana, who at the time the fire was brought under control, had been was burnt beyond recognition.

Meanwhile, the family has called for assistance from the state government considering the loss of virtually all their life savings in the inferno.

Habibu lamented the loss, but took consolation in the fact, "Only Allah has the power to give or take life. My daughter is gone, no one can replace that. I call on the good people and government of Niger State to come to the aid of my family as we have lost all that we ever owned."

Chairman of Chanchaga Local Government Area, Alhaji Nuhu Gumna, has visited the bereaved family and donated some items to them.

Gumna, who prayed for the repose of the little girl's soul, made a donation of seven bags of rice, five bags of maize, and some bundles of wrapper to victims of the fire.

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Editorial/ Letters



FG And New Refineries

The Federal Government's decision to build new refineries and petrochemical plants, as disclosed recently by the Minister of State for Energy

Op-Ed/ Comments

Dear Moses...

On the swivel chair at the centre of the room, he sits innocently like a chick under the flappy wings of the mother hen.

The Beauty In Thabo Mbeki's Resignation

Respect is earned. It is never successfully lorded over others. Few leaders appear to

know this. It's obvious in the way they go about their affairs.

Renewing The Battle Against New Terrorism In Nigeria

Three weeks ago, the United States of America mourned as they commemorated the 7th Anniversary of the September 11 terrorists attack in their country.

Columnist

Conversation of an Angry man Independence Day Broadcast

Hi pals, happy Independence Day Celebrations! It is one of the paradoxes of this country that there is no defined way to mark this ritual

Candour's Niche Nigeria At 48: So Far, How Far?

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008, Nigeria will mark the 48th anniversary of its independence from the erstwhile colonist, Great Britain. That anniversary is tomorrow.

Scruples Why East London?

As I braved the benumbing cold on Friday afternoon to walk down Rhodes Street which terminates at the major road demarcating the waterside and that part of

The Roundtable Channels-gate: Tragicomedy Of Errors

It is no longer news that an enterprising hacker with a wicked sense of humor used the email address of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) to broadcast a hoax "news scoop" regarding a purported plan by President Yar'Adua to resign from office shortly after reconstituting the Council of Ministers.

Speaking Out Pains Of The Plains People

There has recently arisen a controversy between the two neighbouring states of Bauchi and Yobe over the construction of Kafin Zaki Dam

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