

Man sets sister-in law ablaze in Imo

By Anolu Vincent

Reporters, Owerri

BARELY three weeks after a mother of five, Happiness Obioha, hacked her 70-year-old mother in-law (Agatha) to death at Awo Idemili in the Orsu council area of Imo State over a family feud, a similar tragedy had again played out at Owaelu Uratta, in the Owerri North LGA when a young man, Okechukwu Uche, angrily set his sister-in-law ablaze over electivity connection dis-

pute.

Investigations by Daily Independent revealed that trouble began when one Chiedozie Mbata, son of Mrs. Maria Mbata, attempted to draw electricity from a pole adjacent to the said Okechukwu Uche's home but was resisted by him (Uche) because, according to him, the Mbatas did not contribute to the erection of the pole.

Infuriated by Uche's action, the Mbatas challenged him (Uche), and feeling insulted, he threatened to deal ruthlessly

with them.

A member of the Mbata family, Amarachi, told *Daily Independent* that around 4.45am on that fateful day, June 19, Uche climbed on top of their building, opened the roof, sprinkled fuel on it and set it ablaze.

According to him, the fire later spread and in the process, Uche escaped with matchete cuts from the Mbatas but Maria Mbata, unlike other members of her family, was not lucky as the inferno completely engulfed her room, inflicting se-

rious degrees of burns on her.

She was, however, rushed to the FMC Owerri but was rejected by the nurses on duty due to the ongoing strike by doctors in the state. The nurses also said they could not handle the level of burns suffered by the woman.

The traditional ruler of the community, Eze Emmanuel Okoro, who condemned the development, said that his cabinet would do everything to bring the culprit to book.