

20 homes gone in Imo fire

THE Deputy Speaker of the Imo State House of Assembly, Jonas Okeke, has requested for the presence of emergency agencies in Amainyi, Ihitte Uboma Local Government Area, where fire burnt over 20 houses.

The houses were burnt last Saturday when the driver of a petrol tanker lost control and somersaulted near residential buildings.

The tanker exploded and caught fire.

**From Emma Mgbeahurike,
Owerri**

Okeke, who visited the scene of the scene moments after the incident, said the area needed the services of emergency relief agencies to ameliorate the hardship being faced by the people.

The Deputy Speaker said the presence of the agencies would not only help the dis-

placed but also check a possible epidemic outbreak.

He blamed the tanker driver for allegedly over-speeding while negotiating a sharp bend.

Okeke urged drivers to respect road codes and signs.

He later visited some of the victims at various hospitals in the Ihitte Uboma and Obowo where he made cash

donations and promised to pick some of their bills.

Disaster struck in the early hours of Saturday when the driver lost control as he was trying to negotiate a bend. He was caught in the spontaneous fire from the truck, which razed over 20 houses and destroyed property worth millions of naira.

The driver died on the spot.

Obi donates money, relief